

An Invitation to Join the

Partnership to Improve Care And Translate Evidence for Seniors (PICANTES)

Why a Partnership is needed:

More than half of older adults will require post-acute or long-term care during their lifetimes. Nursing homes and care communities are under increasing pressure to provide high-quality care with very limited resources. Establishing partnerships between community nursing homes and academic partners can bring opportunities for testing and evaluating innovative approaches to improving care.

Who we are:

We are an experienced group of clinicians and researchers at the University of Pennsylvania who are committed to improving the lives and care for people in nursing homes and care communities (see accompanying bio page).

Why we are reaching out to you:

We identified a group of community nursing homes and care organizations providing short- and long-term care to older adults that:

- Demonstrate a commitment to improving your quality of care and outcomes.
- Are willing to explore innovative solutions to important clinical and care delivery problems
- May have previously expressed an interest in collaborating with Penn researchers in studies and in quality improvement projects to improve care delivery and outcomes. In fact, you may have already participated in studies and grant applications with Penn Faculty. However, it isn't required that you receive patients from Penn-affiliated hospitals and practices to be part of this Partnership, nor are you required to have participated in research or quality improvement studies before.

How the Partnership works:

We commit to:

- Providing 4 contact hours of high quality in-services/webinars annually on topics that are of interest to Partnership members. We will solicit topics from our members and also offer a list of possibilities. Webinars will be 30-90 minutes long and offer continuing education credits to targeted interdisciplinary team members. IDT members may include primary care providers, nurses, social workers, chaplains, therapists, or nursing assistants, among others.
- Offering up to 2 hours annually of clinical or administrative consulting. Clinical consulting may involve clinician-to-clinician consulting regarding a specific patient or clinical problem. Administrative consulting may involve guidance on specific quality improvement initiatives or addressing regulatory issues.
- Hosting an annual face-to-face membership meeting at the University of Pennsylvania offering education, networking opportunities, and identification of members' clinical and administrative priorities

- Conducting meaningful research addressing issues that are important to our members and to elder care in general. We will explore topics during the annual meeting and
- Implementing studies in a manner that minimizes the impact on facilities. We will ask for our partners' input on research protocols to make sure they can be conducted in a way that balances high-quality research with facility constraints.
- Engaging interested staff and leadership in learning more about research and increasing their research skills, including serving as coauthors on presentations and publications

What we ask of our community partners:

- Sign a general letter committing to be a Partnership member.
- Agree to serve as a potential study site for Penn IRB-approved research. You won't be expected to participate in all studies (unless you choose to do so). We hope partners who agreed to engage in a research protocol to participate, but because of the long periods between submissions for grant funding and implementation of a study, we will finalize this participation at the time a project is funded. We understand that circumstances and ability to participate in a study change over time!
- Provide signed letters of support (we will draft letters of support which can be edited) for specific grant applications in a timely fashion
- Obtain, with our assistance, a federal-wide assurance designating Penn IRB as the IRB of record for studies conducted under the Collaborative. If your organization has its own IRB, then we will seek approval from that Board as well as the Penn IRB
- Assist with and facilitate corporate or organizational approval for studies, as needed
- Raise awareness and provide letters of support (which we will draft) from facility leadership for active studies that can be given/sent to residents and families, assuring them that the facility supports the research and encourages them to participate on a voluntary basis.
- Facilitate study implementation by supporting investigators to identify potential research participants
- Facilitate study implementation by encouraging and supporting facility staff engaged in study activities. We will not ask facility staff to recruit or consent patients or collect data for any study unless this expectation is explicitly agreed to up-front and the facility is compensated for these efforts.

Potential questions:

Question: Are assisted-living and continuing care retirement communities included in the Partnership?

Answer: at this early stage, we are focused on facilities that provide skilled nursing care, both short stay and long-term care. We are here reaching out to several entities that include the spectrum of care (e.g., independent living through skilled nursing) what are currently focused on post-acute and long-term care. While we are open to examining assisted-living and other care settings, right now we are keeping our focus narrower.

Question: How many organizations/facilities are in the Partnership?

Answer: For initial membership, we are targeting a group of about 20-25 facilities. Once we get the Partnership up and running, we will add facilities as seems reasonable.

Question: We need to go through our corporate offices and/or legal team prior to participating in research and other clinical initiatives. Will that prevent us from joining the Partnership?

Answer: Absolutely not! We anticipate that all of our partners will want to review each project proposal prior to participating. We will provide you materials for your review and be available to answer questions.

Question: We have been or currently are involved in research with other universities or entities. Does this prevent us from joining the Partnership?

Answer: Absolutely not! You are free to collaborate with whomever you choose in addition to the Partnership.