

Berdes Receives Grant from The Retirement Research Foundation

Celia Berdes, PhD, has received a grant of \$150,000 from The Retirement Research Foundation for a project called “Education in Palliative and End-of-Life Care for Long-Term Care.” Dr. Berdes is an assistant professor of medicine at Northwestern University’s Buehler Center on Aging, and director of research at Presbyterian Homes, Evanston, Illinois. The project will be carried out at Presbyterian Homes.

The project aims to bring the benefits of palliative and person-centered care to elders with chronic conditions. The project will develop a method to assess the need for person-centered/palliative care in nursing homes. The results of the needs assessment will guide the adaptation of a palliative and end-of-life care curriculum for use in long-term care facilities. Based on the findings of the assessment, the project will develop or adapt—from existing modules from the Buehler Center’s Education in Palliative and End-of-life Care (EPEC) Curriculum—at least five educational modules on person-centered/ palliative care in long-term care, thus creating EPEC-Long-Term Care.

The project is Phase I of an envisioned three-phase project. Phase II will demonstrate the educational modules, evaluate their impact, and test a companion intervention, a model interdisciplinary palliative care consultation team. Phase III will organize a consortium of long-term care facilities to further disseminate and evaluate EPEC-LTC.