**Summary:** This position, Project Registered Nurse (pRN), is a critical role in the implementation of the Indiana University Geriatrics OPTIMISTIC (Optimizing Patient Transfers, Impacting Medical quality, and Improving Symptoms: Transforming Institutional Care) initiative, funded by a 4 year grant from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). OPTIMISTIC is an innovative intervention designed to reduce hospitalizations of long stay nursing home residents through the use of established collaborative care models, implementation of care protocols and improved communication. The ideal candidate will have a strong interest in Geriatrics and/or Palliative Care and in caring for nursing home residents. The pRN will be based in one area nursing home. The pRN will serve as a champion within the nursing facility to implement this quality improvement program.

**Key Aspects:**

- Assesses health status through obtainment of relevant health history and comprehensive physical exam, preventive screening, and identification of medical risk factors. Develops treatment plan to maximize the health potential of the individual, family, and/or community. May conduct patient care conferences, facilitate discharge planning, and develop policies and procedures.

- Regularly interacts with the various facility disciplines to assure comprehensive and interdisciplinary assessment of facility residents’ health status and needs.

- Assists with verbal orders and medication reconciliation with the APN and/or physician.

- Directs the development, implementation, and evaluation of standards for nursing practice in their respective nursing facility and assists in the assessment of the clinical nurse's performance and validates clinical competencies.

- Serves as a clinical resource for the nursing staff, physicians, hospital and other health care providers.

- Serves as an advocate for patients, staff, and management.

- Maintains a consistent, daily full-time presence in each facility and serves as the point person for OPTIMISTIC leadership and staff.

- Triages and assists facility staff and APNs in the management of acute change in status of the facility residents.

- Provides direct support, education and training to the staff at each facility in transitional, palliative and dementia care, utilizing validated modules and resources.

- Provides links for long stay residents that transfer from the facility to the community to appropriate community resources.

- Tracks and monitors the quality of the transfers of the long stay residents, and the causes of preventable transfers, through structured data collection and root cause analysis tools.
- Participates in ongoing training in integration, effecting culture change and leadership, palliative care, and in management of acute medical issues of the long stay residents.
- Assists staff in the acquisition of clinical skills and knowledge by providing advanced staff development programs.
- Collaborates with other departments to assess learning needs and plan staff education programs.
- Develops and implements educational materials and discharge planning programs.
- The pRN will complete the Respecting Choices® POLST Facilitator training ([www.respectingchoices.org](http://www.respectingchoices.org)).
- The pRN will be trained using the ELNEC-Geriatric Program. This specialized curriculum uses a train-the-trainer model to provide comprehensive education focused on geriatric palliative care.
- Functions as a clinical expert by providing consultative services to health team members and community. Markets consultative services and educational programs to the other health team members to problem-solve complex clinical situations and positively impact patient and family outcomes.
- Participates and conducts research in primary care and incorporates research findings into practice as applicable to individual area. Disseminates research innovations and findings to nursing staff, management, physicians, and other health team members. Compares clinical practices to national standards in order to positively affect patient outcomes.
- Up to 10% of the pRN role will include data collection for quality improvement and evaluation purposes.