

# CMP PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Civil Money Penalty Reinvestment Program

## Educational Materials Aim to Reduce Avoidable Hospital Visits

Of the 1.4 million nursing home residents throughout the U.S., more than one-fourth are hospitalized each year — a rate that continues to rise, according to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. Many of those hospitalizations occur because of family or resident insistence on hospital care and are potentially avoidable. These statistics are the reason Dr. Ruth Tappen, Professor of Nursing at Florida Atlantic University, and her team created materials in multiple languages to provide education about how and when it is better to receive care at the nursing home instead of the hospital.

*“We interviewed more than 270 nursing home staff, residents, families, and physicians and found that even the well-educated really didn’t know what today’s long-term care facilities can provide. We learned a lot about what people knew and didn’t know and that helped shape the decision aid we developed, **Go to the Hospital or Stay Here?** [guide and trifold booklet].” – Dr. Ruth Tappen*

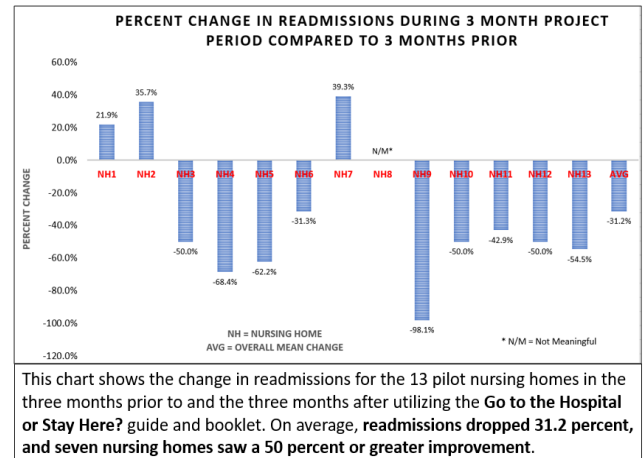
## Educational Resources for Nursing Homes

It can be stressful to make choices about what care to receive and where. The **Go to the Hospital or Stay Here?** guide and trifold booklet includes information about medical services offered in the nursing home, such as administering medication and oxygen, blood tests and X-rays, intravenous fluids, and pain management. Instructional videos are available online:

- **Go to the Hospital or Stay Here?** guide and trifold booklet (<http://decisionguide.org>)
- Instructional videos for staff on YouTube (<https://bit.ly/2u22YJN>)

Every Medicare-certified nursing home in the participating eight states has received the materials — totaling more than 200,000 guides and trifold booklets, and 2,701 training video DVDs. In the future, Dr. Tappen hopes to offer the materials in other states, as well as look deeper into how the materials are helping to reduce hospitalization rates.

Figure A



### Project Details

**Focus:** Reducing avoidable hospitalizations

**Project Duration:** 2017-19

**Project Funding:** \$800,000

**Funded Entity:** Florida Atlantic University

**Implementing States:** Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi

**For more information:**

<http://decisionguide.org>