



## NEWS RELEASE

February 6, 2007

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**LEADING U.S. RESEARCHER SHARES EXPERTISE ON USING STANDARDIZED INFORMATION TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LONG-TERM CARE**  
**FEB. 7, 8:30 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M., FEB. 8, 11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M., FANTASYLAND HOTEL, MEDIA MAY ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS, AVAILABILITY TO FOLLOW.**

Edmonton –By the end of 2007, Alberta’s long-term care system will have taken a major step towards more consistent standards, thanks to the implementation of a more comprehensive computerized system of collecting resident information. The Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI), now being used throughout the world, is an electronic tool with which nursing staff can track a resident’s basic needs and abilities.

Making her first appearance in Canada, **Dr. Clara Boland**, a leading American expert in the care of the elderly, will share her experience with how this information can improve quality of care, and ultimately, quality of life for residents living in long term care.

Clara Boland, RN, PhD, is the keynote speaker at a one-day symposium to discuss the impact of RAI on long-term care across Alberta. In addition to presenting at the RAI symposium on Feb. 7, Dr. Boland will make a second presentation to delegates attending the 21<sup>ST</sup> annual People and Progress Conference, Feb. 8. People and Progress brings caregivers and families together with experts to share knowledge and advances in continuing care. Dr. Boland will speak on how standardized information can be used to create individualized care plans that better reflect the needs and wishes of residents and their families.

“Too often in the United States, nursing home care plans end up being nothing more than a paperwork exercise for the benefit of the survey agency, rather than a truly individualized guide to direct the care of those living in the home,” said Dr. Boland “We need to assist nursing home staff to look at residents more holistically, as a whole person with individual problems, needs, strengths, and preferences and to formulate a care plan that is rooted in what is important to the resident.”

Dr. Boland will share practical aspects of the care planning process as directed by the Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI). Myths about care planning will be explored, as well as the value of taking a team approach which includes the resident and family in decision-making.

Dr. Boland is a clinical consultant, educator and research nurse with the Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO) in the United States. QIPMO also provides clinical education and consult services for the United States’ federally mandated Nursing Home Quality Improvement Initiative within Missouri.

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**Complete program details at [www.capitalcare.net](http://www.capitalcare.net)/ Conference.**

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