

Abbott Northwestern receives \$9.6 million to study late life care

MINNEAPOLIS 12/12/2011--The way Americans say they want to experience their later years and the way they actually do are often vastly different. Allina Hospitals & Clinics wants to change that and improve the quality of life for patients, their families and caregivers.

The [Robina Foundation](#), founded by Minnesotan James Binger, has given the [Abbott Northwestern Hospital Foundation](#) a \$9.6 million grant to study a new care model called Late Life Supportive Care (LLSC).

Phase One will take place at [Abbott Northwestern Hospital](#) and two senior care facilities – [Walker Methodist](#) and [Augustana Care](#).

"This arose out of Mr. Binger's belief in Abbott Northwestern and the transformative care it could provide," said [Penny Wheeler, MD](#), Allina's chief clinical officer. "This work will affect numerous lives."

The Late Life Supportive Care (LLSC) care model introduces an interdisciplinary team including the primary care provider, a supportive care nurse, a social worker/family counselor, and other clinical experts available to patients around the clock. They will partner with the patient and family using shared decision making, with attention to quality of life and holistic support.

"We hope this model of care will do two important things. First it will proactively reach out to patients and families who could benefit. And second, it will let the person's own goals guide their care. We know the goals will be both medical and non-medical. Engaging the family and community around that individual will be key to meeting their non-medical goals," said [Eric Anderson, MD](#), medical director of Allina's [Palliative Care Services](#).

The study will focus on 400 to 500 patients aged 65 and older with Alzheimer's, stage III and IV cancer and heart failure who live in the Twin Cities. Patients, families and caregivers will have access to all medical information and care planning through Allina's electronic medical record, and MyChart, Allina's on-line tool for patients to access their medical records.

Researchers will design and build the model in 2012 and begin enrolling patients in January 2013. Phase One results will be available by the end of 2014.

About Abbott Northwestern Hospital and Allina Hospitals & Clinics

[Abbott Northwestern Hospital](#), the largest hospital in Minneapolis, is part of Allina Hospitals & Clinics, a not-for-profit system of hospitals, clinics and other health care services, providing care throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

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