

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2008

For more information, contact:

Christine Beechhold (505) 998-9750

NMMRA Staff Member Presents at International Conference

Albuquerque, NM—NMMRA’s home health quality improvement manager, Sheila Conneen, PhD, MPH, RN-C, was a featured presenter at the International Conference of Policy and Service Delivery Model for Telecare in Taipei, Taiwan, on April 21. This invitational conference, organized by Taiwan’s Department of Health, the Industrial Technology Research Institute, and Long Term Care Professional Association, brought together approximately 250 participants from government, technology, academia and care delivery settings in Taiwan, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Conference organizers highlighted Taiwan’s current efforts to address the needs of its aging population by using information technology to integrate home, community, and institutional resources for long term care and to provide efficient emergency and consult services, particularly in rural areas.

Conneen’s presentation focused on modes of telehealth delivery in the United States, including strategies to integrate telehealth effectively into care planning, care coordination, and quality improvement activities as well as providing examples of New Mexico’s activities using information technology to support telemonitoring, consultation, and professional education in both urban and rural, underserved areas of the state. The presentation also introduced the participants to best practice intervention packages produced by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for their recent home health quality improvement national campaign, particularly those addressing telemonitoring, phone monitoring, teletriage, patient self-management, disease management, and transitional care coordination.

“Everyone at NMMRA is extremely proud that Dr. Conneen was hand picked to present at this conference. It exemplifies both the outstanding work Dr. Conneen and her team did with the home health agencies throughout the state over the past five years, and most importantly, the high regard with which Dr. Conneen is held by the quality improvement community nationally,” said Dan Jaco, NMMRA chief executive officer.

New Mexico Medical Review Association

NMMRA

Conneen made additional presentations at nursing and medical schools in Taichung and Taipei, meeting with the national teams that are implementing and evaluating Taiwan's national telecare interventions.

NMMRA is a not-for-profit, physician-sponsored organization that is New Mexico's federally contracted Medicare Quality Improvement Organization and Medicaid External Quality Review Organization. The organization works with health care providers, consumer and health care organizations, and state and federal agencies to improve the quality of health care in New Mexico.

– 30 –

This material was prepared by the New Mexico Medical Review Association (NMMRA), the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for New Mexico, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. 8SOW-NM-HH-08-04