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## VNA NORTHWEST NURSES RECEIVE ADVANCED HOSPICE CERTIFICATION

BANTAM – Five additional members of the VNA Northwest, Inc. nursing staff recently became certified by the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses (NBCHPN). They are: Joanne White, RN, CHPN, Nona Williams, RN, CHPN, Kim Lagana, RN, CHPN, Sarah Minervino, RN, CHPN, and MaryAnne Spring, LPN, CHPLN.

These nurses join three other certified staff members, Sharon Kloczko, RN, CHPN, Malisa O'Neill, LPN, CHPLN, and Amanda Parente, Home Health Aide Scheduler.

NBCHPN<sup>®</sup> is a national organization that advances quality in the provision of care to patients and families facing life-limiting illnesses through certification of health professionals. According to NBCHPN officials, there are currently less than 120 registered nurses, and less than 15 licensed practical nurses in the state of Connecticut who have earned this certification.

Hospice and palliative nursing practice is the provision of nursing care for the patient and family that places emphasis on the patient's physical, psychosocial, emotional and spiritual needs at the end of life. Board certification in hospice and palliative nursing is highly valued and provides formal recognition of basic hospice and palliative nursing knowledge.

VNA Northwest's Hospice Team includes physicians, nurses, home health aides, therapists, social workers, clergy and trained volunteers. In December of 2011, the entire clinical staff of VNA Northwest completed a hospice certification preparation training session. For more information on end-of-life care options, please call Hospice Coordinator Joanne White at (860) 567-6000.

VNA Northwest, founded in 1928, provides home health, hospice, home telemonitoring, and private duty services to patients in the following communities: Bantam, Bethlehem, Cornwall, Falls Village, Goshen, Harwinton, Kent, Lakeville, Litchfield, Morris, New Hartford, New Milford, Northfield, North Canaan, Plymouth, Salisbury, Sharon, Terryville, Thomaston, Torrington, Warren, Washington Winsted and Woodbury. For more information about VNA Northwest, Inc., please call (860) 567-6000, (800) 752-0215, or visit [www.vnanw.org](http://www.vnanw.org).

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