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Dr. Hedrick is Research Career Scientist and Associate Director of the Northwest Health Services Research and Development Center of Excellence at the Department of Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System. She is also Professor in the Department of Health Services in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the University of Washington..

Her research focus is increasing the quality and cost-effectiveness of health care for the chronically ill elderly, with special focus on community-based long-term care.

Recently completed studies evaluated assisted living programs accessible to lower income elderly:

- the State of Washington's Medicaid-funded community-based residential care programs (i.e., assisted living, adult family homes)
- the VA Assisted Living Pilot Program.

Current study is designed to obtain information about the current VA practice of long-term care referrals including both quantitative and qualitative data from providers, patients, and caregivers.

Proposals in review:

- methods for testing interventions that may increase the likelihood that referrals are made to home and community-based care long-term care programs rather than institutional settings:
 - a web-based provider tutorial on the available community-based programs and how to access them.
 - a single point of entry referral systems in which all long-term care referrals go through a single multidisciplinary committee for review and revision as needed.