

Center for Home Care Policy & Research at  VNS Health	Peer-Reviewed Publications January 2025 – October 2025
(Alphabetic order by first author)	Authors in bold are Research Center staff

(as of 10/31/2025)

Peer-Reviewed Publications by Research Center at VNS Health Staff

2025

1. Arbaje, A.I., Hsu, Y.J., Greyson, S., **Bowles, K.H., McDonald, M.V., Vergez, S.,** Harbison, K., Williams, N., Hohl, D., Carl, K., Gurses, A.P., Marsteller, J.A., Leff, B. (2025, E-published ahead of print). [The coming home intervention to enhance safe hospital-to-home health transitions: Pilot evaluation](#). Quality Management in Health Care. PMID: 40099951.
2. **Bowles, K.H.,** Stawnychy, M., O'Connor, M., Hodgson, N., Mikkelsen, M., Sang, E., You, S.B., Pitcher, K., Song, J., Garren, P., Newman, B., Weiss, C., **Ryvicker, M., Barron, Y.,** Deb, P., Hirschman, K.H. (2025, In press). *Context and determinants for implementing a sepsis survivor care transition intervention reported from five health systems and home health agencies*. Frontiers in Medicine.
3. **Burgdorf, J.G.,** Amjad, H., **Barrón, Y.,** Ryvicker, M. (2025). [Undocumented dementia diagnosis during skilled home health care: Prevalence and associated factors](#). Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. 73(7), 2117-2126.
4. **Burgdorf, J.G.,** Freedman, V. A., Wolff, J. L. (2025). [A look at caregivers for community-living persons with dementia: Implications for the guide model](#). Alzheimer's & Dementia. 21(3), e70013.
5. **Burgdorf, J.G., Russell, D.,** Fabius, C.D., Miller, K.E.M., Reckrey, J.M. (2025). [Caregiving network precarity among community-living, dually enrolled persons with dementia](#). Gerontologist. 65(9).
6. **Burgdorf, J.G., Russell, D,** Reckrey, J.M. (2025, E-published ahead of print) *Who Chooses Consumer-Directed Personal Care? Characterizing Users and Switchers in New York Medicaid*. Health Affairs Scholar
7. **Burgdorf, J.G.,** Smiley, A., **Barron, Y.,** Goodman, J., **McDonald, M.V.** (2025). [Social work during skilled home healthcare: Prevalence and determinants](#). Innovation in Aging. 9(5), igaf018.
8. **Burgdorf, J.G.,** Wolff, J. L., **Barrón, Y.,** Amjad, H. (2025, E-published ahead of print). [Dementia severity associated with unmet caregiving needs during skilled home health care](#). Journal of Applied Gerontology
9. **Burgdorf, J.G.,** Wolff, J. L., **Barrón, Y.,** Amjad, H. (2025). [Family caregiver availability and capacity associated with home health service types for patients with dementia](#). Journal of the American Medical Directors Association. 26(9), 105744



10. Chae, S., **Davoudi, A.**, Song, J., **Evans, L.**, **Bowles, K.H.**, **McDonald, M.V.**, **Barrón, Y.**, Min, S. H., Oh, S., Scharp, D., Xu, Z., **Topaz, M.** (2025). [Developing a clinical decision support framework for integrating predictive models into routine nursing practices in home health care for patients with heart failure](#). Journal of Nursing Scholarship. 57(1), 165-177.
11. Chastain, A.M., Shang, J., Murali, K. P., **King, L.**, Ogunlusi, C., Zhao, S., Kang, J.A., Zhao, Y., Dualeh, K., **McDonald, M.V.** (2025). [Development of and Testing Novel Questionnaires Assessing Palliative Care-Related Knowledge, Attitudes, and Confidence Among Home Healthcare Clinicians, Patients and Caregivers](#). Home Healthcare Now. 43(1), 21-31.
12. Cordoza, M.L., Anderson, B.J., Cevasco, M., Diamond, J.M., Younes, M., Gerardy, B., Iroegbu, C., **Riegel, B.** (2025). [Feasibility and acceptability of using wireless limited polysomnography to capture sleep before, during, and after hospitalization for patients with planned cardiothoracic surgery](#). Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing. 40(3), E110-e116.
13. Denfeld, Q.E., Hiatt, S.O., Rosenkranz, S.J., Camacho, S.A., Chien, C.V., Dieckmann, N.F., Ramos, T.B., Lee, C.S., **Riegel, B.**, Hansen, L. (2025, E-published ahead of print). [Background and design of the physical frailty and symptom monitoring and management behaviors in heart failure \(prism-hf\) study: A mixed methods study](#). International Journal of Nursing Studies Advances. 8, 100282.
14. Fisher, L., Massimo, L., **Riegel, B.**, Walser, T.J., Hirschman, K. B. (2025, E-published ahead of print). [Evaluating the implementation fidelity of a motivational health coaching intervention to improve self-care for caregivers of persons living with dementia](#). Journal of Applied Gerontology. PMID: 40009352
15. Gupta, P., Zhang, Z., Song, M., Michalowski, M., Hu, X., Stiglic, G., **Topaz, M.** (2025). [Rapid review: Growing usage of multimodal large language models in healthcare](#). Journal of Biomedical Informatics. 169, 104875.
16. Harkins, S.E., Hulchafo, I.I., Scroggins, J.K., Walsh, C., Didier, M., **Topaz, M.**, Barcelona, V. (2025, E-published ahead of print). [Patient disability status and the use of stigmatizing language in clinical notes during hospital admission for birth](#). Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nursing.
17. Hobensack, M., **Davoudi, A.**, Song, J., Cato, K., **Bowles, K.H.**, **Topaz, M.** (2025). [Comparing the influence of social risk factors on machine learning model performance across racial and ethnic groups in home healthcare](#). Nursing Outlook. 73(3), 102431.
18. Iovino, P., Dollaku, H., Alvaro, R., Pucciarelli, G., Rasero, L., Macchi, C., Liuzzi, P., **Riegel, B.**, Vellone, E. (2025, E-published ahead of print). [Sleep quality patterns in patients with heart failure: A person-centred latent class analysis from a secondary analysis of the motivate-hf trial](#). BMJ Open. 15(8), e101950.



19. Jaarsma, T., **Riegel, B.**, Strömberg, A. (2025). [Self-care: A well-known but yet elusive concept. A discussion of theories, concepts, interventions, and measurement.](#) European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing. 24(1), 160-164.
20. Koons, B., Lehman, R., **Riegel, B.**, Buck, H. (2025). [Facilitators and barriers to patient-caregiver dyadic recruitment in transplantation.](#) Nursing Research. 74(5), 399-404.
21. Lee, C.S., **Riegel, B.** (2025; E-published ahead of print). [Psychometric testing of the updated self-care of heart failure index version 8.0 using item response theory.](#) The Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing.
22. Levy, S., Hirschman, K., Matus, A., Thomas, G., **Riegel, B.**, Ashare, R. (2025). [Do coping style and future time perspective relate to surrogate decision-making preparedness? A cross-sectional analysis of heart failure caregivers.](#) Aging & Mental Health. 29(5), 874-880
23. Luciani, M., De Maria, M., Barbaranelli, C., Fazio, P. C., **Riegel, B.**, Ausili, D. (2025). [Measuring self-care in the general adult population: Cross-validation of the self-care inventory.](#) Applied Nursing Research. 82, 151920.
24. Luth, E.A., **Brickner, C.**, **Bowles, K.H.** (2025, In press). *Clinician-identified health characteristics and palliative care eligibility: Is dementia overlooked?* American Journal of Managed Care.
25. Luth, E.A., **Brickner, C.**, Rakotoarivelo, H., Gao, O., **Bowles, K.H.** (2025). [Adding functional ability measures to a mortality algorithm to support palliative care eligibility decisions.](#) Research in Gerontological Nursing. 18(5), 225-234.
26. Luth, E., O'Malley, D., **Brickner, C.**, Xue, R., **Bowles, K.H.** (2025, E-published ahead of print). [Developing the right for you? Intervention to improve engagement in community-based palliative care: A feasibility study and pilot test.](#) The Journals of Gerontology. Series A, Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences.
27. Matus, A.M., Matura, L.A., Cronholm, P.F., Rickels, M.R., **Riegel, B.** (2025, E-published ahead of print). [Understanding self-care patterns in adults with type 1 diabetes: Insights from a mixed methods study.](#) Journal of Advanced Nursing. PMID: 40040613
28. Matus, A., **Riegel, B.**, Rickels, M. (2025) [Interoceptive Awareness Is Associated with Impaired Awareness of Hypoglycemia in Adults with Type 1 Diabetes.](#) Diabetes Care. 48(1), 101-105.
29. Min, S.H., Song, J., Evans, L., **Bowles, K.H.**, **McDonald, M.V.**, Chae, S., **Sridharan, S.**, **Barrón, Y.**, **Topaz, M.** (2025). [Nonlinear relationship between vital signs and hospitalization/emergency department visits among older home healthcare patients and critical vital sign cutoff for adverse outcomes: Application of generalized additive model.](#) Clinical Nursing Research. 34(7), 364-376.



30. Murali, K. P., Gogineni, S., Bullock, K., **McDonald, M.**, Sadarangani, T., Schulman-Green, D., Brody, A.A. (2025). [Interventions and predictors of transition to hospice for people living with dementia: An integrative review.](#) Gerontologist. 65(5).
31. Reckrey, J.M., **Russell, D.**, **Burgdorf, J.G.**, Aldridge, M. (2025). [Consumer-directed personal care in the new york metropolitan area: Trends in use from 2017 to 2022.](#) Journal of the American Medical Directors Association. 26(5), 105535.
32. **Riegel, B.**, De Maria, M., Barbaranelli, C., Luciani, M., Ausili, D., Dickson, V.V., Jaarsma, T., Matarese, M., Stromberg, A., Vellone, E. (2025). [Measuring self-care: A description of the family of disease-specific and generic instruments based on the theory of self-care of chronic illness.](#) Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing. 40(2), 103-113.
33. **Riegel, B.**, Jaarsma, T., Stromberg, A. (2025, In press). *An Update to the Middle-Range Theory of Self-Care of Chronic Illness.* Advances in Nursing Science.
34. **Riegel, B.**, Jaarsma, T., Stromberg, A. (2025) *Editorial: Designing Interventions to Promote Self-Care.* Infermieristica Journal.
35. Sang, E., Hirschman, K.B., Stawnychy, M.A., Bin You, S., Pitcher, K.S., O'Connor, M., Oh, S., Song, J., Garren, P., Newman, B.J., **Bowles, K.H.** (2025). [Patient-level barriers, related facilitators, and proposed strategies for timely home health care and outpatient appointments for sepsis survivors: Perspectives from healthcare system and home health care informants.](#) Patient Education and Counseling. 138, 109207.
36. Saracino, R.M., Park, E.Y., **Onorato, N.**, Pessin, H., **McDonald, M.**, Demirjian, C., Schofield, E., Rosenfeld, B., Breitbart, W., Applebaum, A.J. (2025, E-published ahead of print) [A pragmatic randomized controlled trial of nurse-delivered brief meaning-centered psychotherapy at home \(MCP-H\) for individuals with advanced cancer: Study protocol.](#) Journal of Geriatric Oncology.
37. Saracino, R.M., Park, E.Y., Pessin, H., **Onorato, N.**, **McDonald, M.V.**, Demirjian, C., Schofield, E.I., Rosenfeld, B., Breitbart, W., Applebaum, A.K. (2025). [A pragmatic randomized controlled pilot trial of brief meaning centered psychotherapy in homecare.](#) Cancer. 131(18): e70082
38. Scharp, D., Song, J., Palmer, M.H., Barcelona, V., **Topaz, M.** (2025). [Risk factors for emergency department visits or hospitalizations among older adults with urinary incontinence in home health care.](#) Journal of Gerontological Nursing. 51(6), 38-47.
39. Scroggins, J.K., **Topaz, M.**, Song, J., Zolnoori, M. (2025). [Does synthetic data augmentation improve the performances of machine learning classifiers for identifying health problems in patient-nurse verbal communications in home healthcare settings?](#) Journal of Nursing Scholarship. 57(1), 47-58.



40. Shang, J., Chastain, A.M., **McDonald, M.V.**, Wang, J., Lee, J.W., Morse-Karzen, B., **Russell, D.** (2025, E-published ahead of print). [Infection prevention and control knowledge, attitudes, and practices among patients and informal caregivers in home-based care: A systematic review.](#) American Journal of Infection Control.
41. Shang, J., Perera, U.G.E., Liu, J., Chastain, A. M., **Russell, D.**, Wang, J., Caprio, T. V., **Barrón, Y.**, Szanton, S., Zhao, S., **McDonald, M.V.** (2025). [Disparities in infection risk among home health care patients: A study using area deprivation index.](#) Journal of the American Medical Directors Association. 26(4), 105455.
42. Sheldon, K.G., **Bowles, K.H.**, **King, L.**, Luth, E.A. (2025, E-published ahead of print). [Why is community-based palliative care declined? Older adult, caregiver, and provider perspectives.](#) Journal of Palliative Medicine.
43. Smith, J.M., **Burgdorf, J.G.**, Riser, T. J., **Ryvicker, M.** (2025). [Skilled home healthcare utilization and outcomes for older adults with dementia: A scoping review.](#) Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. 73(2), 612-625.
44. Song, J., Ramlogan, L., **Vergez, S.**, **Davoudi, A.**, **Sridharan, S.**, Cho, H., Stanley, J., **McDonald, M.V.**, **Bowles, K.H.**, Shang, J., Stone, P. W., **Topaz, M.** (2025). [The paradox of choice in palliative care decision-making in managed long-term care: A qualitative study.](#) Home Health Care Management & Practice. 37(1), 45-53.
45. Spertus, D., Abraham-Aggarwal, K., Unruh, M.A., Yu, J., **Bowles, K.H.**, Thompson, M.P., Espinosa, C., Jung, H.Y., Sterling, M.R. (2025, E-published ahead of print). [Understanding home health agencies' perspectives toward telehealth use among home health stakeholders in the post-covid-19 era: Qualitative interview study.](#) J of Medical Internet Research. 27, e75861.
46. Sterling, M.R., Espinosa, C., **Vergez, S.**, **McDonald, M.V.**, Ringel, J., Tobin, J.N., Banerjee, S., Dell, N., Kern, L.M., Safford, M. (2025; In press) *Home Health Aides Caring for Adults with Heart Failure: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial*. JAMA Network Open.
47. Sterling, M.R., Kern, L.M., **McDonald, M.V.**, Tobin, J.N., Arbaje, A.I., Cené, C.W., Jones, C.D., Dicpinigaitis, M., Shum, M., **Bowles, K.H.** (2025, E-published ahead of print). [Envisioning home health as a critical component of learning health systems to improve evidence-based care in heart failure.](#) JACC: Advances. 101980.
48. Szanton, S.L., Roth, D.L., **Bowles, K.**, **Onorato, N.**, Gitlin, L.N., Leff, B. (2025, E-published ahead of print). [CAPABLE for people after hospitalization: A randomized trial.](#) Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.
49. Taber, E., Hoover, D.R., **McDonald, M.V.**, Sheldon, K.G., **Vasquez, F.**, Gaibi, M., Luth, E.A. (2025; In press) *Feasibility, acceptability, and preliminary efficacy protocol of an intervention for caregivers of hospice patients living with dementia: A pilot randomized control trial*. Plus One.



50. **Topaz, M.** (2025). [*Invisible scribes: Can nurses trust ambient ai for clinical documentation?*](#) Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing. 56(9), 358-359.
51. **Topaz, M., Davoudi, A., Evans, L., Sridharan, S.,** Song, J., Chae, S., **Barrón, Y.,** Hobensack, M., Scharp, D., Cato, K., Rossetti, S. C., Kapela, P., Xu, Z., Gupta, P., Zhang, Z., **McDonald, M.V., Bowles, K.H.** (2025). [*Building a time-series model to predict hospitalization risks in home health care: Insights into development, accuracy, and fairness.*](#) Journal of the American Medical Directors Association. 26(2), 105417.
52. **Vergez, S.M., Barrón, Y., McDonald, M.V.** (2025). [*Disparities in timely receipt of home healthcare: Neighborhood disadvantage and delayed start-of-care visits in New York City.*](#) Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. 73(5), 1462-1471.
53. Xu, Z., Scharp, D., Hobensack, M., Ye, J., Zou, J., Ding, S., Shang, J., **Topaz, M.** (2025). [*Machine learning-based infection diagnostic and prognostic models in post-acute care settings: A systematic review.*](#) Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association. 32(1), 241-252.
54. Xu, Z., **Vergez, S.** Esmaeili, E., Zolnour, A., Briggs, K.A., Scroggins, J.K., Ebrahimabad, S.F.H., Noble, J.M., **Topaz, M.,** Bakken, S., **Bowles, K.H., Spens, I., Onorato, N., Sriharan, S., McDonald, M.V.,** Zolnoori, M.(2025). *Voice for all: Evaluating the accuracy and equity of automatic speech recognition systems in transcribing patient communication in home healthcare.* Student Health Technology Information.329:1904-1906.
55. You, S.B., **Bowles, K.H.** (2025). [*Risk of sepsis in gastroenterology patients and the role of nurses to prevent, identify, manage, and educate about sepsis.*](#) Gastroenterology Nursing. 48(3), 233-235.
56. You, S.B., Hirschman, K.B., Stawnychy, M.A., Song, J., Sang, E., Pitcher, K., Oh, S., O'Connor, M., Garren, P., **Bowles, K.H.** (2025). [*Qualitative study of the context of health information technology in sepsis care transitions: Facilitators, barriers, and strategies for improvement.*](#) Journal of the American Medical Directors Association. 26(7), 105606.
57. Zhang, Z., Gupta, P., Potts-Thomson, S., Prescott, L., Morrison, M., Sittig, S., **McDonald, M.V.,** Raymond, C.W., Taylor, J., **Topaz, M.** (2025) *Identifying and reducing stigmatizing language in home healthcare: the ENGAGE study protocol.* JMIR Research Protocols. 14:e69753.
58. Zhang, Z., Potts-Thompson, S., Prescott, L., Morrison, M., **McDonald, M.,** Raymond, C.W., Sittig, S., Taylor, J., **Topaz, M.** (2025, E-published ahead of print). *Beyond Keywords: A qualitative study of context-dependent stigmatizing language in clinical documentation from a large, multi-payer home healthcare agency.* Home Health Care Management & Practice.

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59. Zolnoori, M., Zolnour, A., **Vergez, S., Sridharan, S., Spens, I., Topaz, M.**, Noble, J.M., Bakken, S., Hirschberg, J., **Bowles, K., Onorato, N., McDonald, M.V.** (2025). [Beyond electronic health record data: Leveraging natural language processing and machine learning to uncover cognitive insights from patient-nurse verbal communications.](#) Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association. 32(2), 328-340.

Submitted Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts Currently Under Review

Bidwell, J.T., Quinn, R., Hirschman, K.B., Bowles, K.B., Thomas, G.L., Stawnychy, M.A., Matus, A., Fauer, A.J., **Riegel, B.** *Supporting Family Caregiver Health in Heart Failure: Longitudinal Associations Between Heart Failure Caregiver Self-Care and Patient Hospitalizations.* Under review.

Kim, P.S., **McDonald, M.V.**, Boaf, J., Moreines, L.T., Schulman-Green, D., David, D., Brody, A., Aldridge, M., Franzosa, E. *Home care workers' role in supporting hospice care: An integrated multiple methods analysis.* Under review.

Kumar, D.S., **Riegel, B.**, Dunsiger, S., Walaska, K., Breault, C., Cohen, R., Liu, C., Pond, H., Salmoirago-Blotcher, E. *Mindfulness training and trajectories of medication adherence among Individuals with Heart Failure: A Latent Class Growth Analysis.* Under review

Riegel, B., Jaarsma, T., Stromberg, A. *Designing Interventions to Promote Self-Care: Self-Care Interventions.* Editorial submitted to *Infermieristica Journal*. Under review

Riegel, B., Kim, S.H., Quinn, R., Walser, T.J., Pitcher, K.S., Garo, J., Sang, E., Matus, A., Thomas, G.L., Hirschman, K.B. *Predictors of Engagement in a Virtual Support Intervention for Caregivers: An Explanatory Sequential Mixed Methods Study.* Under review.

Riegel, B., Quinn, R., Hirschman, K.B. *Sustained Benefit of a Self-Care Intervention for Caregivers of Adults with Heart Failure.* Under review

Russell, D., McDonald, M. V., Chastain, A. M., Xu, Z., **Vergez, S. M., Onorato, N.**, Brasch, J., Ramos, E., Wang, J., Perera, U., McGoldrick, M., & Shang, J. (2025). *Infection prevention and control knowledge, attitudes, and practices among home health care patients and their caregivers: Findings from a multi-site survey.* Under review.

Song, J., Beigi, H., **Davoudi, A.**, Moon, R., **McDonald, M.V.**, Sridharan, S., Stanley, J., **Bowles, K.**, Shang, J., Stone, P., **Topaz, M.** *Leveraging Patient and Their Surrogate Caregiver Communication with Clinicians to Predict Palliative Care Decisions: A Speech Processing Study.* Under review.

Spens, I., Zhang, Z., Maleki H.A., **Vergez, S., Sridharan, S., Flaherty, G., Onorato, N.**, Noble, J., **McDonald, M.**, Zolnoori, M. *Capturing cognitive clues through speech: Feasibility and acceptability of audio-recorded assessments in black home healthcare patients.* Under review.

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Sun, C., Hirschman, K.H., Matus, A., Stawnychy, M., Goba, M., Thomas, G., Ashare, R., **Bowles, K.H., Riegel, B.** *Cost Effectiveness of Virtual Health Coaching for Caregivers of Heart Failure Patients: Results from a Randomized Controlled Trial.* Under review.

Zolnoori, M., Esmaeili E., Nasaria, M., Morovati, T., Azadmaleki, H., Zonour, A., Rashidi, S., Zhang, Z., Noble, J.M., **McDonald, M.V.** *SpeechDETECT: An explainable automated speech processing pipeline for early detection of cognitive impairment.* Under review.

Honors and Awards

Margaret McDonald was one of just 32 healthcare leaders selected for McKnight’s Pinnacle Award, which is granted to “outstanding sector veterans, who are being recognized for driving change, setting new standards and inspiring others for at least the last 20 years.” She was honored with the *Thought Leader Award* at a gala awards ceremony in March 2025.

Interviews & Profiles of the VNSNY Research Center and its Staff & Projects

Famakinwa, Joyce. (May, 2025) [Only 31% Of Home Health Patients Report Their Dementia Diagnosis To Their Providers.](#) Home Health Care News

- [Frontline](#)

Martin, Audrie. (May, 2025) [Tackling Language Barriers in Home-Based Care Improves Care Quality, Patient Outcomes.](#) Home Health Care News

- [Frontline](#)

Aquino, Neil. (June 2025) [Rochester native leads groundbreaking research on dementia care in home health settings.](#) Rochester Business Journal

- [VNS Health Newsroom](#)

Famakinwa, Joyce. (July, 2025) [How Bayada, VNS Health Are Using Research To Accelerate Their Business.](#) Home Health Care News

Famakinwa, Joyce. (October, 2025) [VNS Health Enhances Patient Outcomes with Virtual Coaching Program for Heart Disease Caregivers.](#) Home Health Care News

- [Frontline](#)