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Grant award supports research to reduce barriers to mental health treatment

Louisville KY – A grant (\$5,000) from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky will help expand research by the Department of Family and Geriatric Medicine at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. The purpose of this research is to assess primary health care provider ability to recognize symptoms of mental illness in their patients that may form a barrier to the patient accessing mental health treatment services.

“Primary care is where patients typically begin and end their cycle of diagnosis and treatment for mental illness” said Dr. Toni Miles, the Wise-Nelson Chair in Clinical Geriatrics Research and Principal Investigator for this research. “The primary care practice, then, is a significant source of both mental and non-mental-health related care”.

Surveys of primary care practice sites in Jefferson, Barren and Hopkins counties will begin in February 2008. Results will be shared with participating sites with the goal to encourage providers to screen patients for cognitive impairment.

The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky was established in May, 2001 *to address the unmet health care needs of Kentucky* by developing and influencing health policy, improving access to care, reducing health risks and disparities and promoting health equity.

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