**Research Project Summary**

**Lucy Evans**

**February 1, 2011**

**Texas State University-San Marcos**

Social work documentation is an important aspect of a social worker’s function in every setting. However, documentation of the assessment, admission or follow-up notes in the process can often be lacking in quality and substance. If documentation is not performed or when the quality of it is lacking, the potential pitfalls for social workers can be deep.

The National Association of Social Workers and the Central Texas Veterans Healthcare System (CTVHS) have established a comprehensive social work assessment and treatment plan standard in order to define policy and procedure that meet social work ethics and JCAHO guidelines. Social workers in the CTVHS cover an array of social work services and remain extremely busy with assessments and admission notes they must enter into the computer based patient record (CPRS) by typing manually. Physicians and nurses in the CTVHS hospital in Temple, Texas have the option of employing a voice recognition system for dictation in order to record their medical notes.

This study aims to examine the pros of employing voice recognition technology by physicians and nurses and examine whether social workers in the CTVHS would benefit from using the same technology.