

HEALTH & SUPPORT SERVICES

This is a compilation of bulletin articles having to do with Hunterdon Health Care Services at Hunterdon Medical Center that ran at the end of 2007.

For assistance with any of the services listed **call: 908-788-2562**. A nursing professional is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide emergency assistance to infusion patients. <http://www.hunterdonhealthcare.org/>

The weekly topic - Visiting Health & Supportive Services.

Home is where the caring is. Home care services make it possible to remain at home through disability or temporary, chronic or terminal illness. Most people prefer to be cared for at home.

VHSS Provides In-home Care to: **Families** caring for a loved one who can no longer “do it all;” **Spouses** of those temporarily or permanently disabled; **Caregivers** in need of a break from the constant demands of caring for a loved one; and your neighbors.

Some of the services include: **Certified Home Health Aides** - specially trained personnel who respond compassionately to the unique personal needs of the chronically ill, elderly, or disabled patient; **Statewide Respite Care** – Providing relief to full-time caregivers through the services of Home Health Aides, companions, adult day care or short-term nursing home placement. (*Eligibility determined by income level and caregiver need.*);

Neighbor CARE – Companions provide safety and supervision for those who cannot remain at home alone. Daily, scheduled or occasional visits are arranged as you need them.

In this section over the next few weeks, we will present information on services for Health and Supportive Services available in Hunterdon County.

The weekly topic - Blood & Lab Work at Home.

If illness or disability means that you cannot travel to an outpatient lab for routine blood work, the Visiting Health and Supportive Services Venipuncture Program can come to you. Having the lab work performed in the home can lessen your anxiety about traveling to a facility and eliminates the cost of transportation.

To use the Program:

_ Register for participation by calling the HRCH Intake Department.

_ Ask your physician to fax a prescription with lab orders.

_ Once registered, a healthcare professional will make an appointment for a home visit to draw your blood.

_ Samples are delivered to the laboratory for processing by the person who draws it.

_ The results of the lab work will be sent directly to your physician in confidence.

_ When future blood work is required, simply request another prescription from your physician, then call the Intake Department.

Payment for the blood draw is expected at the time of service. Billing for lab work will be mailed to you directly or from the processing laboratory.

The weekly topic - Home Infusion Services.

Home infusion is a cost-effective way to allow patients who might otherwise be hospitalized to remain in the comfort of their own surroundings. This security is often a factor in successful recovery from illness. Service can be arranged on a one-time only or ongoing basis, including case management. Patient assessment and evaluation, education and compliance monitoring, as well as lab testing are available. Patients and family members are trained to participate in their infusion process by IV-certified registered nurses.

Services provided include: antibiotics and other medications, total parenteral nutrition, pain management, chemotherapy, hydration/electrolyte therapy, and enteral nutrition.

The coordinated team works with your physician to tailor a treatment plan, then provide ongoing monitoring of your progress.

The weekly topic -Your Partner in Community Caring.

Does your aging parent, relative or neighbor need help with the activities of daily living?

Are your employees worried about an elderly family member who is home alone all day?

Is your family exploring options in end-of-life care?

Hunterdon Regional Community Health may have the answers you are looking for. HRCH is an alliance of competent, caring, home care service providers. Their specialty is in identifying, planning and providing the best care to meet the special needs of their patients.

Whether it is an assessment of physical capability, blood testing, or personal response system, HRCH has the skill and the staff to provide the in-home support you and your family members are looking for.

Since many factors influence physical and emotional wellbeing, the agencies of HRCH address the changing needs of patients and family members. They care about the total environment, and act as an information resource to connect you, patients, employees and other family members with vital support and ancillary services. They help caregivers make the best care choices possible.

The weekly topic - Home Health Services.

Home Health Services at HMC provides a comprehensive program of home health care tailored to your special needs. Each program is carefully guided and planned to address the focused needs of the patient and family members. The goal of the specialized team is to provide integrated care for maximum patient benefit. Why home health care? Because home is the place most people like the best.

Home Care Nurses – provide patient care education; intravenous and chemotherapy administration; newborn/neonatal education and support; wound care; respirator/ventilator care; care planning; medical and psychiatric needs assessment and evaluation; medication, safety and nutritional assessment.


Physical Therapists – provide rehabilitative treatment to relieve pain, restore mobility and develop maximum performance.

Occupation Therapists – train and retrain in self-care skills such as dressing, hygiene, grooming and mobility.

Speech Pathologists - provide training or retraining in speech, voice and language skills.

Medical Social Workers – provide resource referral and

education; support patients in maintaining financial, personal and social challenges related to their illness.

 *The weekly topic* - **Hunterdon Hospice.**

Hunterdon Hospice provides physical, spiritual, psychosocial and bereavement support to those with lifethreatening

illness and their families. Services focuses on quality of life, combining empathetic caring with clinical competence. Hospice's unique approach addresses the needs of the entire family unit in planning care.

The Hospice Team

The Hospice philosophy recognizes the interrelated factors which are present in cases of terminal illness. No single discipline can adequately address this variety of needs.


Physicians, nurses, chaplains, therapists, social workers, home health aides and volunteers work together to support the many-faceted needs of the terminally ill patient.

The Hospice Approach

Hospice services seek to involve patients and family members in all aspects of their experience. Emotional, spiritual and medical interventions combine with personal care for patients and respite for family caregivers promote and atmosphere of comprehensive care.

Why Hospice Care?

Patients and families find the help they need as they make their journey through the final stages of illness. Family members find comfort and support as they prepare for the loss of a loved one. The focus of the Hospice team is on ensuring the best outcomes possible, continuing the care for families beyond their loss through the ongoing bereavement counseling and support groups including a special program designed specifically for the youth of a family.

 *The weekly topic* - **Care Connections.**

More families than ever before are providing care in the home to a family member or loved one. If this sounds like your family, you know how important it is to find the right care services to help keep mom, dad, or even your best friend in the best health possible. Care Connections help you honor your commitment. They can meet nursing needs, no matter how large or small.

Care Connections can provide nursing staff to help at home with skilled services that most insurance does not cover. A professional nurse will come to your home and perform the following services: Blood Work, Cardiac Monitoring & Reporting, Respiratory Monitoring & Reporting, Vital Sign Monitoring & Reporting, Diabetic Monitoring & Reporting, Syringe Preparation, Enema Administration, Preparation for Surgery, Specimen Collection & Transport to Lab, Medication Dosage Pouring, Wound Care, Colostomy & Ileostomy Care, Immunizations.

Whether you need help daily or once a month Care Connections can help. Services are invoiced monthly following service.