



Home Care Services During COVID-19

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06/30/2020

Home Care is ...

the provision of equipment and services to the patient in the home for the purpose of restoring and maintaining his or her maximal level of comfort, function, and health. (AMA)

appropriate for consenting patients whose medical needs can be safely managed at home when required time, financial, physical, and emotional resources have been considered.”

(NAHC)

beneficial for you & your patients!



Home Care During COVID-19

The goals of home care (AMA)

Improve the health and quality of life of the patient through comprehensive primary medical care and nursing and rehabilitative services

Reduce the need for hospitalization and nursing home and other institutional placement

Provide support for the informal caregiver

Reduce emergency department visits

Reduce hospital length of stay and the risk of hospital readmission

Allow terminal patients to die at home in comfort if that is their wish

Enhance optimal growth and development of infants and children

Enhance functional potential of patients on life-sustaining devices



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Home Care is ...

Skilled interventions, including:

- disease assessment and monitoring
- medication management
- complex wound care
- lab draws
- home safety assessments
- patient and caregiver education
- Therapy (physical, speech, occupational)



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Home Care is ...

- Ongoing quality improvement to ensure best practices are known and met
- Medical supplies and Durable Medical Equipment
- Home Health Aide
- Non-medical assistance
- Medical Social Services
- Emergency preparedness
- Hospice



Home Care During COVID-19

The benefits of home care during COVID-19

Patients and family members are afraid to be admitted to a facility due to increased proximity to COVID-positive patients, risk of infection

Helps keep hospital & TCU beds available for more critical patients

Home Care already well-versed in infection control

In-home COVID-19 testing; education on infection control

Nurses collaborate with providers while in the patient's home to adjust treatment plans minimizing office or ED visits.

Facilitation of/education on telehealth

Easier Assessment of Social Determinants: Isolation/loneliness; home cleanliness and safety; exercise/activity

Follow-up option for patients who choose to act AMA



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Home Care workers say ...

I love that home healthcare gives you the opportunity to see the big picture of your patient. You are able to truly know your patients, know their families and know their story.” – KM, RN

It takes a certain kind of healthcare worker to succeed in home health: excellent clinical skills, excellent critical thinking and decision making abilities, organization beyond all measure, flexibility to adjust to the needs of patients and the agency's staffing needs, and a sense of humility. I cannot imagine doing anything else and enjoying it as much as I do home health. -KT, RN



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Home Care patients say ...

We wouldn't be able to stay in our home without the help provided by our home care team. We're very blessed to have such a wonderful, caring, and supportive team. - AE, client

After having been receiving home care for a number of years, I have had experience with a variety of nurses and therapists...The nurses and therapists give me an ear to listen, give me the courage to go on with life when times are tough, and I look forward to their visits. It is wonderful to know that someone cares and when they are done with their visit I feel a lot better. I thank God for people like them. - LL, client



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Physicians say ...

Home to hospital to post-acute and back to home is the continuum of care that we work hard to strengthen. Home is where our patients spend the biggest chunk of their life - not the hospital or the clinic. Services that can be provided right at home, such as home health care and telemedicine, are extremely valuable. --*Rahul Koranne, MD*

The future of caring for people with serious illness is in homecare. The biggest barriers to homecare are reimbursement and the complexity of determining eligibility. If these barriers are removed we can improve care, reduced hospitalizations, decrease errors and save money. Patients and families prefer to be cared for in homes. We need to find ways to improve payment so that we may take care of more patients in their homes. This is the frontier of good medicine, a return to old medicine. -- *Julie Benson, MD*

Comments, questions, suggestions, concerns:

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T H A N K Y O U



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