Introducing ... Online referrals that are HIPPA compliant

Earlier this month Home Health VNA, Merrimack Valley Hospice and HomeCare, Inc. launched a new website which you can access at www.HomeHealthFoundation.org. You can also use your smartphone to snap a picture of our QR code to the right to go directly to our website.

Under the Physician and Professionals tab you can go directly to the online referral form. Fill out the form then press the submit button to have it sent directly to our Referral Department for processing. Also in that section you can click on the face-to-face tab to fill out that form and then print, sign and fax it to 978-552-4401.

In our blog, we plan to introduce many important topics of interest to physicians and patients. Do you have a topic you would like see posted? Do you have a clinical question about services or other issue you would like us to address? Email info@homehealthfoundation.org and we will be happy to try to accommodate your request.

Infusion Therapy: Where we draw the line

with Barbara Botto, RN, CRNI
Infusion and Pain Program Manager at Home Health VNA

The IV Therapy Resource Team of Home Health VNA offers an exceptional level of care for our patients who require IV therapy in the home. Home infusion therapy encourages better health and an improved quality of life. In addition, home infusion therapy is more cost-effective and provides better outcomes. The expertise and extensive experience of the care team allows them to identify, communicate, and respond to any changes in the patient’s status related to the applied therapy.

We provide services to patients of all ages and can coordinate the arrangements for intravenous medications and supplies, lab draws and nursing services as needed. Some examples of infusion therapy available at home include IV antibiotics, parenteral nutrition, chemotherapy, pain management and cardiac therapies (Dobutamine/Milrinone) as well as simple catheter care and maintenance.

Although home infusion is safe and effective, “we draw the line” on therapies or situations that may hinder the patient’s treatment. For example:

• There are some drugs that require central line placement, usually because of Ph. of that drug, and that line needs to have its tip in the lower third of the superior vena cava.
• The environment needs to be safe for effective IV care. That includes refrigeration for medication storage, a working telephone and plans for transportation in case of emergency.
• In most cases, we require that the patient or caregiver is willing and able to learn the infusion, especially if infusion is more than once a day.
• The use of cardiac drugs at home is limited to a stable dose of inotropic agents for heart failure.
• There are a limited number of chemotherapy drugs which are used in the home based on safety.

The infusion specialists of Home Health VNA are constantly evaluating new drugs and therapies that may be safe at home, so we can update our policies and procedures and offer them to patients. To refer a patient, call our Referral Department at 978-552-4444 or visit www.HomeHealthVNA.org and click on Arrange for Care.

If you’d like to submit a column for consideration in our Physician and Clinical Perspectives series contact Beth Dimitruk, Communications Manager, at 978-552-4186.

Clinical Perspective

Barbara Botto, RN, CRNI
Infusion and Pain Program Manager
Home Health VNA
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing

Wound, Ostomy and Continence (WOC) nursing is a highly specialized, advanced clinical practice and one of the newest specialties recognized by the American Nurses Association. Certification by the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board shows that a nurse has a personal commitment to education and professional growth, ensuring quality patient care. Studies document that patients with wound, ostomy and continence disorders achieve better outcomes when a certified WOC nurse (CWOCN) is involved in their care. Certified WOC nurses also ensure more cost effective treatment with a strong emphasis on teaching and preventive strategies.

Home Health VNA’s Wound/Ostomy team is comprised of four certified WOC nurses and a wound certified physical therapist who are all uniquely qualified to provide acute and rehabilitative services to patients with selected disorders of the gastrointestinal, genitourinary and/or integumentary system. As clinical experts, our clinicians provide direct care to patients with abdominal stomas, wounds, drains, pressure ulcers, diabetic ulcers and continence disorders. Our wound certified physical therapist provides expert treatment in therapeutic modalities for wound care such as electrical stimulation and ultrasound. In collaboration with physicians and wound care clinics, our certified WOC clinicians adhere to the highest standards of practice to promote healing, prevent complications and help patients with self-care issues.

“In addition to providing specialized consultation and treatment, our clinicians understand the need to address the emotional impact on patients and families” said Wound and Ostomy Program Coordinator, Brenda Davidson, RN, BSN, CWOCN. “When patients receive support, understanding and information, they become more confident and independent and can return to an active lifestyle.

To refer your patient for wound, ostomy or continence services, please contact our Referral Department at 978-552-4444 or visit www.HomeHealthVNA.org and click on Arrange for Care.