

There's no place like home, family and familiar surroundings to enhance the healing process. Thankfully, we live in a time when many ailments that used to require long hospital stays for care and treatment can now be treated safely and effectively at home.

For more than a century, the Hallmark Health Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) and Hospice has set the standard for providing exceptional home care, personalized attention and peace of mind to individuals and families in 23 communities north of Boston. The agency holds the Gold Seal of accreditation by The Joint Commission, which means the VNA and Hospice complies with the highest national standards for safety and quality of care and is committed to continually improving patient care.

Every visiting nurse and member of the home health care team possess advanced clinical credentials, years of training and experience while rigorously following the highest standards of protocols and procedures as they provide expert, compassionate care. They also have established a solid reputation for providing care with a firm commitment to their patient's well-being by following positive patient-first, interpersonal skills.

Diane Farraher-Smith, RN, MBA, MSN, system vice president for Home Care and Community Services, Hallmark Health System (HHS) states, "We follow a team approach to home care, which includes the patient, the patient's caregivers, physicians and the entire clinical team that allows us to obtain the best possible outcomes. We specialize in providing truly personalized care and we achieve this by hiring the most qualified and credentialed staff, keeping pace with technology and listening closely and responding to our patients and their caregivers."

In addition to home visits, VNA and Hospice uses a telemonitoring system that collects the patient's vital signs, weight and other assessments at specific times, seven days a week and transmits the information to a monitoring center at the agency. Registered nurses then review the data instantaneously for a greater level of safety.

Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice ranks high in Medicare performance outcomes. These outcomes include how often patients get better at increasing mobility, managing their medications, controlling pain and treating symptoms. The VNA provides cardiac care, diabetes care, skin and wound care, joint replacement therapies and maternal child health/early maternity discharge and is consistently named to the HomeCare Elite list of the topperforming home health agencies in the United States.

The agency has also set the standard for innovation being one of the first agencies to offer an integrated Palliative Care program, which provides emotional support and clinical treatment for patients living with serious illness. In addition, a certified and licensed hospice program coupled with complementary therapies provides excellent end of life care.

To learn more about the VNA and Hospice, visit www.hallmarkhealthhomecare.org or call (781) 338-7800.