



Jefferson County PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Public Health Facility, 531 Meade Street, Watertown, New York 13601

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Jefferson County Home Health Care Offering Telehealth Monitoring

Watertown, NY, January 3, 2014 ~ The Jefferson County Public Health Service (JCPHS) is offering telehealth monitoring services in the Home Health Care Agency in order to use the latest technology to improve patient outcomes. This evidenced based approach has been proven to increase patient engagement in care which in turn, improve outcomes in chronic disease; reduce hospital readmission; improve patient symptom management; and reduce emergency room visits. Through a grant the Fort Drum Regional Health Care Organization provided these devices to JCPHS.

The easy to use device, called a Health Buddy manufactured by Bosch Healthcare, simply connects to the patient's telephone line. Each day the Health Buddy asks the patient a series of questions designed for the patient's specific medical concerns. Also, the patient is given peripherals that attach to the Health Buddy based on their medical needs. The peripherals may be scales, blood pressure monitors, pulse oximeters, glucometers, or peak flow meters.

For example a patient with Congestive Heart Failure needs to monitor their weight daily so is given a scale that is connected to the device. When the patient weighs themselves the Health Buddy automatically sends the measurement and the answers to the questions directly to the provider. The provider can then make a clinical decision of what should be done or can continue to monitor. This approach is proactive and is like seeing the patient between visits.

Along with monitoring the health of patient the Health Buddy also provides education about the medical concerns the patient is experiencing. This provides real time education that enhances the education that nurses are providing in home health care.

Jefferson County Home Health Care accepts referrals from anyone by calling 786-3770. For more information about how the Health Buddy or about Jefferson County Home Health Care call 786-3770 or go to www.jeffersoncountyhomecare.org

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