

PRESS RELEASE

November 15, 2012

A NEW SERVICE FOR EXTRA-MURAL PROGRAM (EMP) MADE POSSIBLE BY HOSPITAL FOUNDATIONS

Telehomecare, a new service for patients and attending health care professionals with the Driscoll and Tantramar Extra-Mural Units, has been made possible thanks to a donation from the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation, Bennett and Albert County Healthcare Foundation and the Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation. The total funding provided by all three foundations is \$81,600, enabling the purchase of 24 devices.

Telehomecare is a remote monitoring system whereby patients transmit personal health data to Extra-Mural via a monitoring unit in their homes. This data is reviewed each day and should a trend be noticed or data not fall within expected parameters, the nurse or respiratory therapist intervenes.

Candidates for this program are patients with a diagnosis of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and/or Congestive Heart Failure (CHF). These are two conditions that have a significant incidence of hospitalization or re-admission upon discharge that may be prevented.

Terry Morrissey, Director of the Extra-Mural Program, Horizon Health Network, Moncton Area, says an integral part of this service is the education with the patient so they learn to recognize and self manage aspects of their condition.

“When patients and caregivers are aware of the signs and symptoms that trigger exacerbations of COPD and CHF, they can take steps to prevent complications. This results in better health management and may prevent the need for a visit to the hospital due to a sudden crisis,” says Morrissey.

The equipment remains in the home for about three months. During this period the patient receives education and consultation regarding the condition. Together with the respiratory therapist and /or nurse, the patient recognizes what he/she can do when early signs and subtle change in condition occur, thereby reducing a possible preventable admission.

Morrissey is very pleased that the Foundations have supported this remote monitoring equipment to improve the health and wellness of residents in our surrounding communities.

“We are very grateful for the financial support of the three foundations, otherwise this Telehomecare service would not have been possible,” says Morrissey.

The goal is that each monitor will benefit approximately 3 clients per year. The devices have been purchased and have already been distributed to several clients. The Driscoll and Tantramar Extra-Mural Program serves residents of Moncton, Sackville and Albert County areas.

-30-

Contact:

Julie Thebeau, CFRE
Senior Development Officer
Horizon Health Network
The Moncton Hospital
Julie.thebeau@horizonnb.ca
506.870.2699

