PHILADELPHIA HEALTHCARE PROFILES

Home Health, Simplified

The interdisciplinary team at CHAP-accredited Deer Meadows Home Health & Support Services, LLC provides education alongside quality care to perfect the patient experience.

n 2022, Deer Meadows Home Health & Support Services, LLC (DMHHSS) became the first home care agency in the nation to be awarded a Multiple Disease Process Certification through the Community Health Accreditation Partner (CHAP) across four disease states. The home health agency's efforts to educate patients on their medical diseases and conditions made this success possible.

Utilizing a remote patient monitoring program, DMHHSS's staff take daily vitals, manage medications, and provide patients with educational materials including a 60-page educational booklet personalized to a patient's illness(es) and care plan. Because patients are more than just a number, the booklets are even translated into their native language to avoid confusion.

"What I love most about our services is that you develop that personal connection with patients," says Stanley Rynkiewicz III, executive director. "We treat them like we would our own family."



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A Personal Touch

Family caregivers often have limited time and expertise when it comes to providing health services to their loved ones. That's where Rynkiewicz and team step in, providing private duty care to those who need assistance with their personal, physical, and emotional needs. This can mean assisting with hygiene tasks or simply providing a listening ear. Daily visits by health aids can last anywhere from two to 24 hours. "Our nurses are often our patients' lifelines," says Rynkiewicz.

If a patient requires more intense treatment, DMHHSS maintains in-home, trained clinical staff like registered nurses, physical therapists, and occupational therapists. Regardless of the level of care required, the team's goal is to prevent rehospitalization. This means keeping steady contact with patients.

While aids see patients daily, DMHHSS management takes things a step further by touching base with family. "We prioritize communication as much as possible," says Rynkiewicz. "Managers communicate with families on at least a weekly basis, sometimes even daily, for any problems, questions, or concerns." Supervisory visits take place every 90 days, or more often if necessary, to ensure exemplary case management.

Rynkiewicz hopes that more people will turn to in-home care instead of a traditional nursing home. He emphasizes that people can receive similar care, in their own homes, for a substantially lower cost. "When I was a nurse, my motto was 'treat everybody else the way I would want to be treated," says Rynkiewicz. "Hopefully, one day, someone will give the same quality of care to me in return."

Deer Meadows Home Health and Support Services, LLC

> 8301 Roosevelt Boulevard Philadelphia, PA 19152 215-624-2837 deermeadowshomehealth.org