

# CONNECTIONS 2010

## HomeHealth VISITING NURSES

SUMMER 2010

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE HEALTHCARE COMMUNITY BY HOMEHEALTH VISITING NURSES

### PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE

*Giving care, comfort, support and the highest quality of life for medically fragile children and their families*

HomeHealth Visiting Nurses supports an integrated model of palliative care as defined by the American Academy of Pediatrics, in which the components of palliative care are offered at diagnosis and continued throughout the course of illness, whether the outcome results in cure or death. By including children who have a life-threatening condition but are still receiving curative treatment, we ensure that all children who can benefit from palliative care have access to it.

Our multi-disciplinary team includes registered nurses, home health aides, medical social workers, and physical,

occupational and speech therapists that specialize in caring for medically fragile children in the comfort of home and family. Services are available to children with medical needs from birth to 18 years of age. Pediatric nurses complete a comprehensive assessment at the first home visit and develop a plan of care that may include some of the following services:

- Infusion therapies
  - Enteral feedings
  - Wound, Ostomy and Continence
  - Central line care
  - Medication review
  - Nutrition counseling
  - Pain management
  - Social work and counseling
  - Referral to community resources

To help ease the transition from hospital to home, HHVN Provider Relations facilitate referrals with all healthcare providers to include on-site Liaisons at Maine Medical Center. To obtain services, health-care providers may call Intake directly at (866) 255-8744 or fax (866) 255-8744. To schedule an educational in-service on how Pediatric Palliative Care supports children, family members and caregivers, call Provider Relations at 800-660-4867.



**The Following Resources on Hospice, End of Life and/or Palliative Care are Available for Healthcare Professionals:**

**American Academy of Pediatrics** - <http://www.aap.org/healthtopics/palliativecare.cfm>

**Center to Advance Palliative Care** - <http://www.capc.org/palliative-care-across-the-continuum/pediatric-palliative-care/>

**National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization** - [www.nhpco.org](http://www.nhpco.org)

**Article by Carol Katarsky** - <http://healthexecnews.com/end-of-life-decisions-when-is-it-too-soon-to-broach-the-topic>

## THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF PHYSICIANS IN HOME HEALTHCARE

Throughout Maine, there is much discussion about initiatives focused on improving the coordination of care as patients transition across our system of healthcare providers.

Within this framework, it seems timely for HomeHealth Visiting Nurses to highlight the important and evolving role physicians serve in delivering home healthcare services.

In home healthcare, our partnership begins with physicians establishing and approving a plan of care that identifies short and long-term goals. In Medicare, this is known as care plan oversight (CPO), the physician supervision of patients that require complex or multi-disciplinary care modalities. In these cases, physicians are central to the revision of care plans, review of laboratory/study results, adjustments of medical therapy and communication with healthcare providers. Physicians can bill Medicare for 30 minutes of care plan oversight each month if they meet certain coding and documentation requirements.

The physician role is also important with identifying patients that could benefit from home healthcare services. An article from the American Academy of Home Care Physicians highlighted the following:

- Home care services are provided to patients of all ages with acute illnesses, long-term health conditions, permanent disabilities, or terminal illnesses.
- Between 5% and 10% of all patients in a primary care medical practice receive home care, but evidence shows the need is much greater.

- About 20% of patients over age 65 have functional impairments with related home care needs that are often unrecognized during the typical office visit.

Home healthcare is widely recognized as a cost-effective alternative to nursing home or hospital care for patients. Together, we can reduce unnecessary hospitalizations, improve quality outcomes and help our patients remain safe and independent in the community. If you would like to learn more about CPO or referrals to HomeHealth Visiting Nurses, please contact Provider Relations at 1-800-660-4867 or [www.homehealth.org](http://www.homehealth.org).

## CHARLES BELISLE, MD, NAMED MAINE FAMILY PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR

Dr. Belisle, Medical Director for HomeHealth Visiting Nurses, received the Maine Academy of Family Physicians' highest award in May at a ceremony in Freeport. The program included a letter of commendation from Maine Governor John Baldacci. The award honors contributions to community and patients made by Family Physicians who provide comprehensive care to patients of all ages. Dr. Belisle is a physician with Family Medicine Center in Portland and continues to serve as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Maine Air National Guard.



# CONNECTIONS

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### BELLIVEAU FAMILY ESTABLISHES EDUCATION FUND

HomeHealth Visiting Nurses, together with the Belliveau family and friends, recently launched the Madelyn Bergen Belliveau Fund—a scholarship fund to support advanced education for their clinicians. As a nurse, community organizer and volunteer, Madelyn Bergen Belliveau has a long-standing history and commitment to healthcare. An avid and tireless philanthropist, Madelyn has raised tens of thousands of dollars for non-profit health organizations in southern Maine through special events and Bergen Bus Tours.



Madelyn Bergen Belliveau with Mia Millefoglio, HHVN Vice President Development & Marketing (left) and Maryanna Arsenault, HHVN President & CEO (right).

A reception was held in Madelyn’s honor, and donations from family and friends were matched by HomeHealth Visiting Nurses’ Board of Directors to initiate the fund. Maryanna Arsenault, President and CEO of HomeHealth Visiting Nurses stated that “Madelyn is an inspiring example of commitment and civic leadership and we are proud that she has chosen our clinicians as the beneficiary of the Madelyn Bergen Belliveau Education Fund.”

### DR. SUSAN SEPPLES HONORED BY THE VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATIONS OF AMERICA

Dr. Susan Sepples was one of five leaders from across the country honored for their contributions to home healthcare and hospice at the VNAA Annual Awards Luncheon on April 22 at the Walt Disney World Resort.



In presenting the award, Maryanna Arsenault, President and CEO of HomeHealth Visiting Nurses noted that “Dr. Sepples’ ability to generate enthusiasm around education, her advocacy for advancing the quality of nursing education and her dedication to the nursing profession is why she was nominated—and selected—for VNAA’s Agency Board Member of the Year.”

Dr. Susan Sepples has served on HomeHealth Visiting Nurses’ Board of Trustees for over ten years and is currently Chair of their Professional Advisory Committee. Dr. Sepples is also Director and Associate Professor at the University of Southern Maine School of Nursing.

 HomeHealth  
Visiting Nurses

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## MEET THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR PROVIDER RELATIONS TEAM



We are pleased to introduce Karin Hulse, LPN, Provider Relations' Representative dedicated to serving the Maine Medical Center Physician Hospital Organization (MMC PHO). Karin has five years of hospital

NICU experience, and has worked as Marketing Director for home healthcare, hospice and assisted living organizations. An ambitious and successful entrepreneur, Karin started and managed a national healthcare recruitment firm more than 13 years ago. Karin is enthusiastic and energetic and a positive asset to our Provider Relations Team.

If you are a member of the MMC PHO and would like information, literature or educational in-services on any of our in-home services or programs, please contact Karin at 1-800-660-4867 or [khulse@homehealth.org](mailto:khulse@homehealth.org).

[www.homehealth.org](http://www.homehealth.org)