

Why In-Home Care?

There is growing demand for home-based health care services. Tradition, technology and cost effectiveness all influence this trend. When you think about it, home care is the oldest form of health care, but it's also the newest, in that more health-centered services can be offered at home than ever. There is significant evidence that home care is less costly than other forms of care and that it is the preferred, healthier choice.

Why?

- Home is where the heart is. Most people associate very positive feelings with being home. When we are not feeling well, most of us ask to go home. When we are feeling well, we enjoy the sanctity of our residences and the joy of being with our loved ones.
- Home care keeps families together, by enabling people to do what they've always done and still have peace of mind that loved ones are cared for. There is no more important social value and it is particularly important in times of illness.
- Independence. No one wants to feel totally dependent and helpless. With some assistance, seniors can continue to function as viable members of society.
- Home care prevents or postpones institutionalization. Few patients choose to be placed in a nursing home, unless it's the only place where they can obtain the 24-hour care that they need.
- Healing. There is abundant evidence that patients heal more quickly at home.
- Freedom. Home care allows the maximum amount of freedom to the individual who needs care and to family members who also care for them. Hospitals and nursing homes offer more regimented, regulated environments. Home care offers a reassuring, individualized setting and gives family caregivers the respite they need.
- Home care is personalized care. Home care is tailored to the needs of each individual and is delivered on a one-to-one basis.
- Home care involves the whole family. The patient and the family are taught to participate in their health care. They are taught how to get well and how to stay that way.
- Stress reduction. Unlike most forms of healthcare, which can increase anxiety and stress, home care frequently has the opposite effect.
- Home care is one of the most effective forms of health care. There is very high consumer satisfaction associated with care delivered in the home.
- Efficiency. By bringing health services home, the patient does not generate board and room expenses. The patient and/or his family supply the food and tend to the individual's other needs. Technology now has developed to the point where many services, once only available in a hospital, can be offered at home.
- Special people provide home care. By and large, employees of home care agencies view their work not as a job or profession, but as a calling. Home care workers are highly trained and dedicated.
- Lower expenses. Home care is, in many cases, less expensive than other forms of care. In general, home care costs only one-tenth as much as hospitalization and only one-fourth as much as nursing home placement to deal with comparable health problems.

- Home care extends life. A study by the U.S. General Accounting Office has established that people receiving home care tend to live longer and have a better quality of life. Home care helps not only add years to life, but “life to years.”
- Home care is the preferred form of care, even for individuals who are terminally ill. There is a growing public acceptance and demand for hospice care, which is home care for individuals who are terminally ill.