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Health Home Care available in Renfrew and area

The Ontario Ministry of Health Home Care Program was made available to the people of Renfrew and surrounding area one year ago.

Financed by the Ministry of Health, Home Care is within the reach of 100 percent of Ontario residents at the present time. The program is administered by the Renfrew County and District Health unit in this area. Locally, a liaison co-ordinator, a public health nurse, presently Catherine Ryan, organizes the program for care of a patient on this plan from the Health Unit Office, 178 Plaunt at 432-5853.

Basically, Home Care means caring for a patient in the home. To qualify for Home Care the patient needs the doctor's recommendation of at least one professional health service such as a registered nurse, a physiotherapist, an occupational therapist or a speech therapist. Presently, we only have a registered nurse available from this category. Nursing Care Services are purchased from the VON to carry through the program in the home. Patients can only enter the Home Care Program on a

doctor's recommendation. They can enter directly, without going to hospital or after leaving hospital as an extension of hospital care.

Home Care supplies all the necessary equipment, dressings, etc required for treatment in the home for a specified time. If the nurse is visiting the patient, a visiting home-maker may then be engaged for a specified time to look after household duties the patient is unable to perform due to illness.

In addition to providing direct service to the patient the Home Care Nurse will teach and encourage members of the patient's household to help hasten recovery.

Progress reports on the patient are assessed each week. The doctor in charge may recommend changes such as adding services or ending those that have served their purpose and discharging the patient from care.

Any patient requiring hospital care will be admitted to hospital. Home Care is used where a patient is as well or better served by it. 1974