

Services come to the patient

How care program can shorten your stay in the hospital

Although people are grateful for the care hospitals give them when they're sick, possibly the most frequent question they ask doctors and staff is: "When can I go home?"

For several years now the Ontario Ministry of Health has operated a program, called, simply, the Home Care Program, which allows select patients to shorten their hospital stay and, in some cases, to avoid hospitalization altogether. Blanche Soullier suffered extensive burns to her left

arm when the sleeve of her caftan caught fire as she was cooking dinner. After two weeks in hospital, Mrs. Soullier's condition had improved but she still required the large dressing covering her arm to be changed every other day and a blood sample to be taken weekly.

With the support of her family — husband John was going to do the laundry and daughters living nearby would help with the housework — and provision for nursing services, Mrs.

Soullier was able to be discharged from hospital to the home care program.

A stroke put Lillian Twiss in hospital last November. After 10 weeks she was more than eager to come home. Husband Jerry wanted her home as well. "It was pretty lonesome here without her," he said.

Mr. Twiss, who is retired, has always done a lot of the work in the home and had been going to the hospital daily to help in his wife's care. His assumption of the household responsibilities

was instrumental in her early discharge, said physiotherapist Carolyn Hepburn, who visits daily.

Mrs. Hepburn carries out a treatment program designed to get Mrs. Twiss walking with a walker and able to use her right hand to write and to eat.

The weakness brought on by the stroke made it impossible for Mrs. Twiss to manage an ordinary bed. The home care program obtained a hospital bed for her through the Red Cross. Mrs. Hepburn then figured out a procedure which would let Mrs. Twiss get in and out of bed with a minimum of difficulty.

Since Mr. Twiss is a member of the Canadian Legion, the Legion loaned his wife a wheelchair.

In addition to the physiotherapist the community health nurse visits weekly as does the family physician.

Being together with family and healthy people seems to make recovery faster, said Helen Isaak, administrator of the Halton Regional Home Care Program.

Prolonged hospitalization can be depressing. Mothers, for instance, like to be at home supervising their children and the running of the house, she said. Under the home care program, mothers who have had surgery can convalesce at home with a visiting nurse calling to change the dressing on the incision and a homemaker helping with meals and light household chores.

Patients suffering fractured hips are another group whose hospital stay has been shortened by the availability of home care.

Admission to the program directly from home prevents disruption of family routine. People suffering mild strokes and certain kinds of pneumonias are less frequently hospitalized now, receiving care at home instead.

Also increasingly choosing to stay home are the terminally ill. Last year in Halton 27 terminally-ill people

elected to spend their last days at home. With services provided under the auspices of the home care program they can be kept comfortable at home. Moreover, living with the dying person helps the other family members cope with their grief, Ms. Isaak said.

At one time newly-diagnosed diabetics spent time in hospital getting their treatment regimens organized. By contrast today, many receive this service at home.

Illness in one family member produces a stress on the entire family. Ms. Isaak pointed out. Visiting in the home, the health worker can note excessive stress and offer assistance to the family needing it.

Home care is not for everybody, however. The patient has to want it and family support is essential. Ms. Isaak said. "If there's a lot of tension at home, recovery might be better in hospital."

Home care is not replacing hospital care, she stressed. Over the years, hospitals have taken on treatment that could have been given at home.

Cost of operating the home care program in Halton is roughly \$13 per day. But a direct comparison with per diem hospital costs cannot be made. Hospital per diem rates take into consideration all treatment, service and labor costs, said Dr. Robert King, the ministry's home care program manager. The patient eligible for home care is not in need of highly intensive or technical care and the cost of maintaining him in hospital is at the low end of the spectrum, he said.

The per diem cost for an active treatment bed in Milton District Hospital is \$31.40; in Georgetown Hospital, \$109.25.

The home care program is a potential money saver, Dr. King said. But the potential saving has not yet been realized because the province has too many hospital beds.

"As long as the beds are there, people will fill them," Dr. King commented, adding that some of the patients using the beds shouldn't be there.

Although the program is administered locally, it is funded 100 per cent by the Ministry of Health through OHIP monies.

Professional services provided under the auspices of the program are nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. Auxiliary services include meals on wheels, medications and medical supplies, sick-room equipment, laboratory tests and homemakers.

The program purchases nursing service from the Victorian Order of Nurses. Community nurses from the regional health unit provide counselling services. Home-maker service is purchased from the Red Cross.

Since there is no speech therapist in this area and the call for a speech therapist is minimal, North Halton residents who do need this therapy must travel to Guelph or Oakville hospital outpatient departments. Volunteers provide transportation when the patient is unable to go on his own.

In North Halton physiotherapy is purchased from a private physiotherapist; occupational therapy from the Community Occupational Therapy Association in Toronto; lab technician service from a private Toronto laboratory.

For patients who don't require homemakers every day, the program can

arrange for a delivery of a meal once a day, five days a week in Acton; twice weekly in Milton.

Equipment — from canes to hospital beds — is borrowed from the Red Cross loan cupboard or rented from a private agency. Dressings and medical supplies are provided by the program as are certain drugs.

The job of the home care program is to co-ordinate all the services mentioned.

With the exception of the homemaking service, which is time-limited, the home care program continues services until the patient is able to manage on his own, until his condition becomes stable or, in the case of the terminally ill, until death. The average stay on home care is 21 days.

Patients whose condition is stable but who are unable to care for themselves have to make other plans for their

continued care and, if necessary, for financial coverage. But there are people who fall in between — who can't afford to pay for their care themselves but don't qualify for financial assistance. Their condition may deteriorate as a result and re-hospitalization may be required.

If there was a home care program to look after chronic patients, these people would likely be able to carry on at home, Ms. Isaak said. No means test would be required for the program.

Currently, three pilot projects in long term home care are underway in Hamilton, Thunder Bay and Kingston. The home care program, originally administered from the Oakville offices of the VON, began serving North Halton in 1972. In 1975 the program was put under the administration of the Halton Regional Health Unit. Last year 144 cases were referred to the program in Milton and Halton Hills. Of these, 74 referrals were from local hospitals and 75 from the community and other hospitals.

New quotas

Fewer shoes available for spring - retailers

People buying footwear this year will find fewer shoes, according to retailers, who along with leather manufacturers predict higher prices too.

Between retailers and leather makers there is an often sharp debate on the advantages and disadvantages of the import restrictions—quotas—placed on shoe imports. In December Ottawa cut the number of shoe pairs to be imported by 2½ million. About 38½ million pairs may be imported this year.

Leather industry spokesman, such as Peter Dunham, president of the Tanners Association of Canada and of Beardmore and Company, see the quotas as a boost for the industry and employment.

Local retailers, like Swetman's Shoes, acknowledge quotas as a help to workers. I don't think quotas are hurting the consumer in the long run, if they are providing employment, Alma Swetman said last week.

However Swetman's Shoes and J-T Sports will both likely experience a decrease in purchases. Swetman's placed orders for sandals and summer shoes prior to the December quotas. Suppliers seem to be able to honor those orders, but once the stock is gone that will likely be all there is.

Adidas, of West Germany and France, is probably the worst hit, according to Terry Cole of J-T Sports. Mr. Cole predicts Adidas will swing away from specialized footwear, such as for boxing, track and field, and parachuting, to shoes for walking.

Fashionable imports will jump in price, some by 25 per cent, because of the Canadian dollar devaluation and also because of the "added value" restricted products bear", according to The Financial Post March 8.

The price of domestic made shoes is going up too because of higher hide costs—25 per cent more than a year ago, according to The Financial Post.

Leather manufacturers were operating at 60 per cent capacity, according to Mr. Dunham, so there will be no shortage of

leather.

However the Canadian Shoe Retailers' Association bulletin of last December feared that domestic manufacturers would be unable to produce enough shoes to fill the gap left by quotas—by spring.

"Canadian manufacturers say they will produce anything the Canadian consumer wants, but it will be months before they are ready," CSRA executive vice-president F. M. Payne told The Financial Post.

The picture drawn by the retail association may not be all that bleak if Swetman's store is taken as an example. Normally it receives between 90 per cent and 95 per cent of its orders. So far this spring 80 per cent to 90 per cent of the orders have arrived, Mrs. Swetman said.

However, Swetman's caution, suppliers' prices may change. Suppliers used to be able to keep prices firm. In four years of business the price quoted by suppliers was honored, Mrs. Swetman said. Recently, though, indications are suppliers will not be able to guarantee price, she said.

Mrs. Swetman confirmed what the retail association has contended about summer shoes and stylish footwear. Swetman's have been unsuccessful in their bid to find a Canadian manufacturer who can make shoes like the ones from Italy.

"People want a lower price summer sandal and this can be produced at less cost in Brazil, India, Spain, Taiwan and elsewhere. Consumers object to high prices in summer footwear because it tends to be a one season item", Mrs. Swetman said.

Mrs. Swetman said it will take two to three years for Canadian manufacturers to produce high style fashions for evening and the low price sandals for summer.

Swetman's strength is their continued business with suppliers who did business with Swetman's predecessors, Eugene Braida and Bill Benson. In addition to the suppliers such as Greb, Kaufman, Savage and Susan Shoe we've added other Canadian shoes and attempted to buy Canadian as much as possible, Mrs. Swetman said.

Store proposed in Limehouse

An application to open a store selling wood-burning equipment and handicrafts in the village of Limehouse, was referred to the Niagara Escarpment, by planning board this week. The land is in N.E.C. development control area.

The proposed store was a grocery store from 1927 to 1961, and is on the Limehouse

road in the centre of the village.

The property in two parts, has one and half storey house and structure, where the store is proposed on the northern section and the southern section, has a frontage of 72 feet on the road allowance between Lots 22 and 23. Houses surround the land on three sides.

Building permits

Building permits issued by the town of Halton Hills for Acton in February totalled \$28,800 in value.

One was for the addition to Olympia drive-in restaurant for \$3,800; one for an addition to a single family dwelling at \$15,000 and two for the moving of the two vacant homes on Elizabeth Dr. for \$10,000.

DOUBLE HAPPINESS RESTAURANT
CHINESE AND CANADIAN CUISINE
357 Queen St. E. (Back of Plaza Acton)
Tel. 853-2060

Try Our Delicious
Fish & Chips
or our
Chinese Cuisine

★ HOURS ★
Monday to Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Sunday 12 noon to 8 p.m.

Telephone 853-2060

Missed Your Free Press?

Please Let Us Know

Our carriers do their best to give fast courteous service but mistakes do happen; so if you do not receive your paper or have any complaints regarding delivery, please call our office.

853-2010

Science fair in Hamilton

Entries are still being accepted for the 18th annual Hamilton District Science and Engineering Fair.

The event open to public and post-secondary students from Halton, Hamilton, Hamilton-Wentworth, Halldimand Norfolk and Brant areas already has over 160 registrants.

This is the biggest registration in the history of the fair, according to A. N. Turner, chairman.

The Fair, to be held April 6,

7 and 8 at the physical education complex at McMaster University is open to the public Friday, April 7 from 9.30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Presentation of awards will take place at 5 p.m. Saturday. Top students will be awarded a choice of an expense paid trip to the 1978 Canada-Wide Science Fair in Sudbury, May 7 to 13 or the International Science and Engineering Fair in Anaheim, California, May 9 to 14.

THE MAGNA CARTA OF CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES
The Source and Foundation of Civilization—
THE MOST VALUABLE THING THAT THIS WORLD AFFORDS...
WISDOM...THE ROYAL LAW...THE ORACLES OF GOD

Read the Scriptures daily with the aid of "The Bible Companion" — tables for the systematic daily reading of the Bible, by which the Old Testament is read once and the New Testament twice in the course of a year, taking only 20 minutes daily.

Read and understand that a fixed and predetermined purpose is in process of development, unknown, indeed to "The Powers that be", but known of God, revealed in His Word, and guided by His Hand.

THAT PURPOSE IS:
THE GATHERING TOGETHER OF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD AGAINST JERUSALEM TO WAR: THAT THE ETERNAL SPIRIT, BY JESUS, THE KING OF KINGS, MAY SMITE THEM UPON THE MOUNTAINS OF ISRAEL; AND IN CONCERT WITH RESURRECTED AND LIVING SAINTS, AT THE HEAD OF THE ARMIES OF ISRAEL, RE-ESTABLISH THE THRONE AND KINGDOM OF DAVID AND SUBJUGATE ALL OTHER NATIONS TO THIS NEW POWER IN THE EARTH. (SEE ISA. 14:24-27; 27:1-6; JOEL 3:1,2,9-17; MIC. 6:1-6; ZECH. 12:1-9; 14:1-11; DAN. 11:40-45; 12:1-2; REV. 18:1-18; 17:14; 11:15-17; 5:9-10; 2:28; 27; ACTS 18:16; AMOS 9:11-15; ISA 9:6,7; LUKE 1:31-33; etc.)

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF "THE BIBLE COMPANION" SIMPLY SEND YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO: EUREKA, BOX 253, GUELPH, ONTARIO N1H 8K4. THERE IS NO COST, OBLIGATION, OR FOLLOW UP.

"THY KINGDOM COME..."

"When extortion has done its work and the looting is over, when the heel of the oppressor has vanished from the land, A THRONE SHALL BE SET UP IN MUTUAL TRUST IN DAVID'S TENT, and on it there shall sit a true judge, one who seeks justice and is swift to do right..." Isa. 16:4,5. (New English Bible).

HAIL TO THE REST! — HAIL TO MESSIAH'S REIGN!

50th ANNIVERSARY
RALSTON PURINA
OF CANADA LTD.

ATTENTION DOG OWNERS

Purina Dog Meal
on special for Month * **\$10.50**
of March..... 20 KG.

FREE DELIVERY ON 10 BAGS OR MORE

Kay's Mobile Feeds Ltd.
856-9815

TEDDYS AT EVERTON

A 19th Century Stone Inn
Full of Bears, Baskets
and Rather Odd Teapots ~
serving reasonably
priced complete meals
including our own home-
baked Cheese Buns, Butter
Tarts and hand-churned
Ice-cream-Interesting
Wines and fully licensed
Hours: 11:30am - 9:30pm
Closed Mondays. Between
Guelph & Erin ~ Hwy 24 N
on South side ~
Telephone 519-856-9010
and we will be delighted to
send you the menu - or write
to TEDDYS AT EVERTON/ERI/GUELPH

R/M Construction

R.R. 1, Guelph
(Ospringe)
Corner 24 and 25 Hwy.

- Topsoil
- Sand & Gravel
- Excavating & Trucking
- Fencing
- Landscaping
- Tree Removal
- Gabions

Ralph Reinders & Sons
Phone 833-2160

CANCER CAN BE BEATEN.

WHAT'S IT WORTH TO YOU?

APRIL IS
CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY
MONTH

PLEASE BE GENEROUS.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS SPONSORED
BY THE ACTON INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES
IN THE INTEREST OF THEIR EMPLOYEES