

# Government, insurance and individual pays for home healthcare

Home healthcare is becoming an important component of the Canadian healthcare system, but many people are not aware of the services available.

Home healthcare involves the delivery of nursing, rehabilitation therapy and home support services in the familiar surroundings of one's home.

Home healthcare offers such services as post-operative, post-natal and

care of the elderly, as well as light housekeeping or cooking.

In addition, there are specialized home healthcare services for people with specific needs, parents with severely disabled children, as well as nursing and personal care for individuals who are seriously injured and palliative care for the terminally ill.

In the past, home healthcare usually meant helping the elderly with housework, but now it's not unusual for professionals to support their clients right in the home.

It's expected that by the year 2000 the volume of home healthcare will double that of 1995.

Why? Expectations for high-quality healthcare are increasing since two-income families have less time to care for aging parents or children with special needs.

Home healthcare is also on the rise because provincial governments are reducing funding for hospital stays as day surgery becomes more

prevalent. This means people may go directly from a hospital's Intensive Care Unit to their home. Right now, over 50 per cent of all discharges for home healthcare are for post-operative care. Other factors involve doctors doing more house calls and more types of services being offered.

### How do you get home healthcare?

Research shows that most people ask their doctor, local hospital, or public health department or go directly to a home healthcare provider which they find through the yellow pages or referrals.

### How is it paid for?

Depending on the circumstances, the government, insurance companies and the individual client all pay.

Provincial governments provide funding in some cases under their Home Care plans while insurance companies pay the cost of care where appropriate. Individuals can also pay privately for nursing and

homemaking services to assist family members who are recovering from illness or who need continuing assistance to live at home.

A survey examining Canadian knowledge and attitudes about home healthcare showed:

- As the population ages, more Canadians expect to care for an elderly family member;

- Most younger people expect to have responsibility of caring for an elderly family member in the future

- Three of four Canadians would rather receive treatment at home for a terminal illness.

This article was submitted by Para-Med Health Services, a division of Extensicare Inc.

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Clients currently receiving services from the York Region Home Care Program and Placement Coordination Service - York Region (e.g. nursing, therapy, homemaking, placement services) will continue to receive services as before.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the CCAC office at:

905-895-1240 905-722-4223

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