



News Release

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### **Home health program grows at Columbus Community Hospital**

For Immediate Release

**(COLUMBUS, Neb.)** – Home health care services are in high demand.

The need has grown particularly in the last year during the coronavirus pandemic, as health directives urged people to stay home. That has been true for the home health program at Columbus Community Hospital (CCH).

The program has experienced a significant increase in home visits. Approximately 3,000 more visits occurred in the fiscal year 2020-21 than the previous year.

The growth is also because CCH has added more therapists to the staff to provide physical, occupational and speech therapy.

“Adding our physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, occupational therapist and certified occupational therapy assistant have been incredibly beneficial to help with that growth,” said Jody Willison, director of CCH’s home health and hospice program.

Home health provides skilled nursing and therapies to patients in a home setting. The goal is to help patients recover quickly and safely while staying out of the hospital. Additionally, receiving service in their own home can help a patient become more comfortable.

“What’s wonderful about the program is that people can stay in their own homes if they so desire, said Dorothy Bybee, vice president of patient care services at CCH. “That can be very helpful in the recovery process.”

Home health’s service area includes Platte, Boone, Butler, Colfax, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Polk, Saunders and Stanton counties. The program is Medicare and Medicaid certified and meets the requirements of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Those referred to home health might be recovering from a surgery or illness or have a chronic health condition. A patient must be homebound and need skilled intermittent care to qualify.



Each patient in the home health program has an individualized treatment plan that focuses on their specific needs and goals. The team of professionals provides skilled nursing care to administer medications, give intravenous therapy, provide diabetic management education, perform nutritional assessments and give wound and ostomy care. Other professionals deliver speech, occupational and physical therapies. Home health aides also offer bathing, personal care and diversional activities.

Bybee said home health at CCH has an outstanding reputation, leading to the program's growth. The department has had nearly 1,200 more registered nurse visits, 1,000 more physical therapy visits and 700 more occupational therapy visits this fiscal year.

The program has continued to exceed state and national averages. More patients have reported better oral medication management, lower hospitalization rates and higher wound healing rates than averages in Nebraska and the nation.

For more information about the home health program at Columbus Community Hospital, visit [www.columbushosp.org](http://www.columbushosp.org).

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