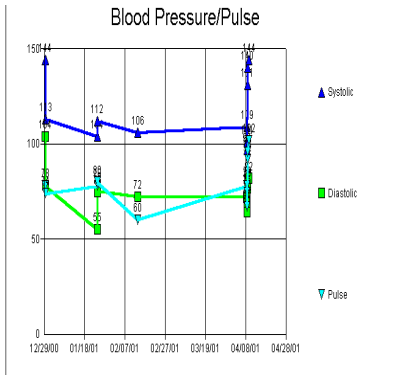


Sigma's Telemedicine Program

- Benefits patient and keep them connected to care
- Reduces Multi-hospitalization
- Gives physicians more organized and valuable patients Data.

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stolic	Diastolic	Pulse	Case/Time of Reading
144	104	78	12/29/00 13:40:00
113	78	74	12/29/00 17:45:00
104	55	78	01/24/01 09:30:00
112	75	80	01/24/01 09:33:00
106	72	60	02/13/01 12:48:00
109	72	78	04/08/01 13:59:00
101	67	75	04/08/01 14:03:00
97	64	67	04/08/01 15:13:00



Home on Health

Hi-Technology Excels Outcomes

A year ago, on January 1, 2001, Sigma has instituted a Telemedicine Program and employed the service to a qualified group of its patients. The belief was that by combining on-site regularly scheduled home visits with telemedicine visits, Sigma can make the difference in attaining favorable outcomes for patients with certain illnesses.

As studies have shown, Telehomecare has increased patient and caregiver satisfaction and compliance with their physician directed plan of care. Studies have also shown significant reduction of frequent hospitalization for the same illness for more than 70% of patients participating in a similar program.

As we have found, this program can help not only patients, but also hospitals and physicians. Neither distance nor number of visits can be a problem for those patients who qualify for this program. The core practice of Sigma is still and will always be the in-home rehab and nursing visits. Yet, we have found, while other

agencies are trying to reduce the number of nursing visits under the new payment system, Sigma was able to virtually increase those visits. And in many cases, obtain around the clock patient vital signs, glucose and oxygen levels.

Sigma's nurses continue to make their on-site home visits as ordered by the physician while this hi-tech extra care is taking place. It is proven that those patients whom we have combined on-site with Telehomecare visits have improved faster and took better control of their lives.

Advantage to patients:

Immediate access to care, personal attention, early detection of signs and symptoms, avoiding ER visits and frequent rehospitalizations. It was also found that patients and families are reassured by easy access to care, while reducing anxiety and increasing compliance to care plan. Elderly patients remain independent longer and empowered to participate in their own care.

Advantage to Physicians

Sigma's telemedicine instrument provides organized and valuable patient data with the ability to transmit information to the physician via electronic devices such as e-mail and

faxes. It gives the physician better picture of the patients.

Advantage to Hospitals

Reduces multi-hospitalization or frequent ER admission under the same DRG.

Advantage to Sigma

Although this program is not reimbursable by Medicare, by using Telemedicine, Sigma is able to offer ultimate care for patients and more quality time. It gives Sigma staff more detailed data about their patients and expanded boundaries of service areas. Most of all, telemedicine gives a very distinguished outcome to the patient.

Patient conditions currently being included in home telemedicine programs:

- CHF
- Diabetes
- Asthma
- COPD
- High Risk Pregnancy
- Post Stroke



Patient Unit

Do you have any questions about Home Health Care?

If you do, call Sigma's information hotline. You will get all the answers to your questions by the experts in the field.

*Call Toll Free
866-4-HOME HEALTH
or call
409-763-6566*

*Between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm
and ask to speak to someone
who knows*

Patients, Providers, Caregivers

Bedside PT/INR Testing

Equipped with CLIA approved instruments and ASCP certified staff, Sigma Clinical Lab is continuing to provide bed side testing for PT/INR for those patients on Coumadin® treatment. The service was established to enforce the continuation and compliance with anticoagulation therapy according to physician orders and changing patients needs. Results reported to physicians before leaving the patient home effectively eliminating the time laps between testing and adjustment of medication level.



*"Technology with compassion is a Work of Mercy."
—Ted Hanley*

Sigma is Developing a Software

As Sigma feels the need for more continuity of care practices, it has put together a team of health care professionals and software programmers to develop a program that focuses on physician reporting and continuity of care between health care professionals. It is estimated that it will take 18-24 months for this program to see the light. It will be out for use just a round the time HIPPA is in effect for all of the health care industries.

We adjust to patients needs

Homebound reform bill

Representatives Edward Markey (D-MA) and Chris Smith (R-NJ) have introduced HR 1490, the Homebound Clarification Act of 2001. This act would base the homebound determination solely on the standard of whether

leaving the home requires considerable and taxing effort, eliminating duration or frequency criteria for non-medical care-related absences. If this bill pass more Medicare patients would qualify for home health under

the new proposed definition. It is worth noting that last March, Medicare started qualifying adult day care patients to receive home health service with no restrictions.



Sigma and Jesse Tree join forces

In a unique effort by two of Galveston county's community agencies Sigma Health Care and Jesse Tree join their efforts to collect food for the needy of Galveston Island. "This is what we are all about, our community", Amer Taha, Executive Director of Sigma Health Care stated.

Our community needs a lot, and choosing to service this community gives us a big responsibility towards it. We always look forward to do more for Galveston, he added.

Food donations are accepted at both agencies locations; Sigma is located at 1609 Tremont Street and The Jesse Tree is located at 2622 Market. Donors can call 409-763-6800 for directions.

5 years in serving our seniors and the community

Since our establishment, our mission at Sigma Health Care has been to provide educated, patient focused home health services to our community. Our commitment to this goal has led us to maintain the highest standards of quality throughout our company, and to continuously strive for self-improvement in this area. We believe by being proactive than passive in practicing home care, has given us the effective tools for change to the best in the industry which is directly reflecting our patients and community needs.

When Sigma Health care merged in the middle of the wreckage caused by BBA of 1997

it realized the tremendous responsibility that had to be undertaken. We analyzed every aspect of health care and every need of our seniors and our community. We realized that home care with all its past, should be redefined. We have determined to keep the word "care" in home care. We have also determined that the concept of reforming home care is a necessity to provide quality care.

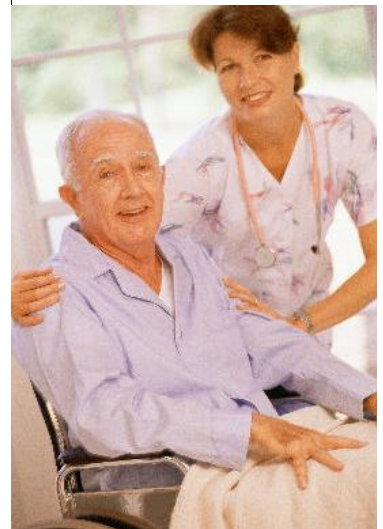
We realized that what impacted all the closing home health agencies, is the business concept that had shifted the practice from real patient care. It had created a culture out there called the "business of Home Health". Sigma strives for change;

what we need to reform in this industry? What we need to practice? And What to add and what to take out?

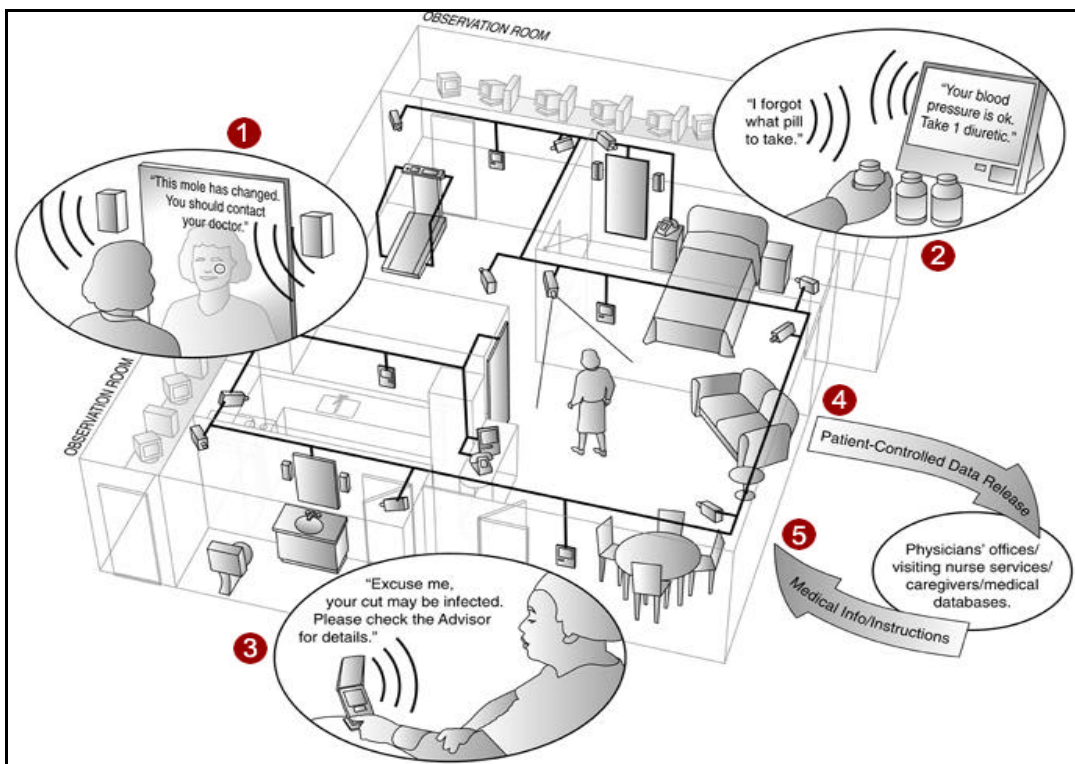
Understanding all of this and reanalyzing the every day needs of our community and our patients made us the number one choice for many patients in our area. We continue to add testimonials from our patients day after day that always make us proud and gave us energy to continue on this rout.

Therefore, while Sigma continue to be on the top 10% agencies in the nation adopting new technologies to help patients, our high standards are one thing that you can count on never to change.

"We have determined to keep the word "care" in our home care practice. We have also determined that the concept of reforming home care is a necessity"



Home Care of the future, Are we up to it?



Technology is redefining every aspect of life and therefore survival will only be for those who can adopt it.



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Email:

info@SigmaHomeHealth.com

*Your Neighborhood Home
Care agency*



Sigma

on the Web

SigmaHomeHealth.
com



Patti Abschneider



Berta Foster

Easy to remember Toll free numbers

If you ever in a hurry and you can't slow down to look up our phone numbers, just dial your needs and you will get through immediately.

The following toll free phone numbers were added at Sigma Health Care for your convenience:

For Rehab Therapy (866) HOME-REHAB

For Infusion Therapy (866) HOME-IVs

For Multi-disciplines Care (866) Sigma HH

For Information Hot-Line (866) 4-HOME -HEALTH

For those who remember or have our numbers handy

You always can call

(409) 763-6800 or (800) 246-6614

Just joined the Team at Sigma

While Sigma continues its focus on patient quality care, it continues its recruitment of quality educated professionals. Recently, we were joined by Patti Abschneider, a well known community activist and educator. Patti comes from extensive background in Assisted Living, nursing homes, rehab/SNF units, senior groups and volunteer programs. The administration of Sigma Health Care focus is to raise the bar on home care community outreach in general and to promote more community-focused programs. We take this opportunity to invite you to call Patti and introduce to her your needs. You may reach her at 409-763-6800 or 800-246-6614.

Berta Foster, Director of Quality Improvement at MD Anderson accepted a position of Asst. Director of Operation. This position was recently created to increase the quality of continuity of care for Sigma's patients.