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For Immediate Release

Home Health Care Management, Inc. Joins Fight Against Opioid Epidemic

Berks VNA and Pottstown VNA Hospice Programs will use new drug disposal pouches to help prevent drug abuse.

Wyomissing, Pa., July, 2017 – Berks Visiting Nurse Association (Berks VNA) and Visiting Nurse Association of Pottstown and Vicinity (Pottstown VNA), non-profit organizations of Home Health Care Management, Inc. (HHCM), can now help dispose of unused prescription medications for families of its hospice patients.

“Disposing of unused medications adds a much-needed service for the families of our 400 hospice patients,” said Constance Morrison, President and CEO, HHCM. “It could also provide a tremendous help to our community as it struggles with an opioid epidemic.”

By placing prescription medication in a special pouch of water, Hospice staff and the patient’s family members can deactivate the medication and safely dispose it with normal trash. These drug disposal pouches were distributed as part of a joint project between Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro's office and the Pennsylvania Homecare Association.

"We know pain management is a huge part of end-of-life care, like hospice," said Sen. Judy Schwank (D-Berks). "When the patient passes, families are often left with many prescription medications. Properly disposing those medications is not high on a family's priority list when a loved one has passed, nor should it be. This will give Berks residents an easy way to ensure their loved one's medicine won't be abused."

Due to the severity of pain and illnesses in hospice patients, opioids like morphine and fentanyl are often prescribed, which are dangerous if abused. Abuse of opioid medication is a common first step toward heroine abuse, which has increased exponentially in Pennsylvania.

“We’re so thankful to Attorney General Shapiro and the PHA for initiating a program that helps further our continuum of care and helps the community,” said Morrison.

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About Home Health Care Management, Inc.

Home Health Care Management, Inc. (HHCM), a Pennsylvania-registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the parent and management organization for Berks Visiting Nurse Association (Berks VNA), Visiting Nurse Association of Pottstown and Vicinity (Pottstown VNA), and Advantage Home Care. The mission of



CARE COMES HOME.

HHCM and its subsidiaries is to provide care for people in their home of choice and in a healthy community.

Collectively, they serve seven counties in southeastern Pennsylvania. Pottstown and Berks VNAs provide advanced nursing and therapies (physical, occupational and speech), medical social work, dietician services and hospice. Their specialty programs include Congestive Heart Failure Disease Management, Diabetes Disease Management, COPD Management, Wound Ostomy and Continence Care, IV therapies, Telehealth/Telemonitoring, Psychiatric/Mental Health Home Care, Palliative Care and Hospice.

Advantage Home Care offers private duty assistance for the elderly and individuals suffering from an illness, in need of long-term care, or in-home help including new mothers. For more information, please visit www.everythinghomecare.org or call 1.855.THE.VNAs.