**Homecare & Hospice Service Updates During COVID-19 04/28/2020**

* **Homecare OT-PT and Speech Therapy** – Visits are resuming through telehealth video. The team will begin to evaluate any patient therapy face to face visits that can occur in May and June.
* **Intermittent Skilled Nursing** – Telehealth video visits started the week of 4/20/2020. General nursing visit referrals will resume on a case by case basis beginning in May. While still concerned with COVID-19 exposure, new patient referrals will be assessed for a combination of face to face and telehealth video. Medically complex patient referrals continue such as those requiring central line care, lab draws, wound care, NG tube replacement, injectable support and infusions.
* **Asthma Express** referrals will resume in May, again, on a case by case basis where an initial face to face visit is performed and subsequent follow up visits could occur via telehealth.
* **Private Duty Nursing** - Providing care to current patients.
* **Palliative Care** - Current patients are receiving face to face home visits in combination with telehealth video option as needed by our Palliative Care staff. New referrals for Palliative Care are being accepted on a case by case basis starting in May.
* **Hospice -** Current patients and families are receiving face to face home visits in combination with telehealth video option. New patients are evaluated for admission via phone consultation with the physician and family. Our Hospice Social Worker and Chaplain are primarily making phone follow-up patient contacts with some telehealth video option and assisting the nurses with issues as they arise.
* **Home Medical Equipment** – Maintaining regular deliveries for current patients. Supplies such as wound care items or enteral supplies are being delivered to the patient home, if the referral originates in the hospital, next business day or the family can pick up supplies at 255 East Main Street. HME continues to **not** accept new diaper ONLY patient referrals.
* **Delivery times at the hospital**: Two delivery times will be available by HME staff, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.
* **HME is not dispensing gloves for new enteral patients**. Due to supply shortages and a medical necessity review, gloves will not be dispensed to patients with new enteral orders. This is a permanent change to our supply practices. All other items will dispensed as ordered.
* **Infusion Pharmacy** – Current patients are a priority. Any changes in medications that may be needed the pharmacist will reach out to the Physician/Practitioner. We continue to focus on accepting patient referrals coming from the NCH system. We will not be accepting transfer patients from other pharmacy providers for like services.

Questions regarding any of Homecare’s service lines, contact [Carolyn.Figi@NationwideChildrens.org](mailto:Carolyn.Figi@NationwideChildrens.org) or call the main line 614-355-1100, Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.