Insuring a safe environment for our clients

At Home Care Group strives to provide a safe and productive environment for our clients. We do this through our caregivers.

Our caregivers start with an interview process that allows us not only to view competency and compliance but it gives us a chance to look for what we really want in our caregivers. A good heart and compassionate personality are things that you can’t teach. So we look for individuals that have that to start.

Each employee is screened for drug use and completes an extensive background check on a Federal level as well as a State level that also checks County records.

When a caregiver meets these requirements the training may begin. We use a top of the line, State approved, online course offering many topics encompassing the physical and emotional needs of seniors. It provides our caregivers a comprehensive look at the industry and carefully outlines in home care expectations that are useful in keeping our clients safe and happy.

Caregivers that have completed the on line training then undergo a team orientation lasting over 3 hours where they review policies and procedures as well as acclimate to the team and the expectation we have in being dedicated to our client’s well-being. During this process they learn the importance of working and communicating with the office.

When a caregiver is ready to go into one of our clients homes, they will meet at the office where they are briefed about the needs of the client and expectation of the client according to the care plan.

All caregivers are expertly supported and have 24-hour access to our nurse and the rest of the administrative staff. They also are required to complete continuing education every year of employment.

Of course working with our clients is an ongoing education for the entire team as we work hard to provide and preserve independence. We believe it is an honor and a privilege to be trusted with the task of offering an extra degree of safety. It also is a joy to be a part of your lives.

— Shawn Cox, Executive Director
shawn@athomecaregroup.com
Nursing Notes

Medications—we take them because our doctor tells us to, right? A recent survey of 17,000 Medicare beneficiaries found that two out of five patients reported taking five or more prescription medications (this does not include vitamins or other over the counter supplements). As we age, chronic conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and arthritis become more common and the number of pills taken in a day can increase dramatically.

So how do you know which medications you should take at which time? For many of us, the doctor’s prescription will have instructions for example “take one tab by mouth once a day” leaving you to decipher what time of the day you should take it. It is important to consult with your pharmacist to determine a daily regiment for each pill you take. For example, should your diabetes medication be taken with food? Without food? At bedtime? Taking this pill at a “convenient” time for you might not be the best way for the medication to work.

It is also important to keep in mind if one medication will counteract with another. Many prescription bottle labels say, “take on an empty stomach” but if you have two prescriptions that say that, is it ok to take them both at the same time? Your doctor and/or pharmacist will be able to help you manage your medications so each one is working most effectively. Taking your prescribed medications, along with diet and exercise, can help your body function at its best to help you live a happier and healthier life.

Visit or call our office, located in the Solvang Retirement Living building, with any questions or concerns you may have.

—Health Services

Marketing Notes

If you’re recovering from surgery or need long-term care for a chronic illness—or you have a loved one facing a similar situation—you might be interested in home care services. Home care services range from personal care, medical care, to help with daily household chores. If you are considering home care services there are questions you should ask to assist you in choosing the best provider for your needs. Knowing what questions to ask can help ensure that you receive quality assistance.

Qualifications

Is the agency licensed by the state? Most states—but not all—require agencies to be licensed and reviewed regularly. Reviews might be available through your state health department.

Is the agency certified by Medicare to meet federal requirements for health and safety? If not, ask why.

What type of employee screening is done? Can the agency provide references? Ask for a list of doctors, hospital discharge planners or other professionals who have experience with the agency.

Quality of care

How does the agency train, supervise and monitor caregivers? Does the agency provide continuing education?

Are the caregivers licensed and insured?

Do the agency’s employees seem friendly and helpful?

Knowing the answers to these questions can help you choose a company to fit your needs. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, please contact me anytime.

—Ruthie Bando, Director of Marketing

Employee Spotlight

Please help us celebrate Shari Tidd our Employee of the Quarter. We are so fortunate to have Shari on our team, and appreciate the exemplary employee she has proven to be during this last year. Shari always has a smile on her face and a positive attitude no matter what comes her way. She is always willing to step up and work wherever she is needed and is dedicated to our team and her clients. Thank you Shari Tidd from all of us at, At Home Care Group.