

Support for home care

As a palliative care physician who cares for dying patients at home, I was struck by a few points in the project to integrate physician services in the home.¹ One is the pivotal role of the nurse practitioner. Home care is extremely complex, and I think that without a dedicated manager such as a nurse practitioner, it is too much to ask of a busy family physician. Second, I was interested in the comments on cost; we often assume that home care is cheaper than hospital care (reduced use of acute care beds and emergency department visits), but Stewart and colleagues point out that this is not necessarily the case. I think it would be interesting to put some numbers to this, as that is likely to be the most telling argument for obtaining funding for these kinds of projects. Another point is that caregiver burden was not decreased in the group participating in the program, which is something I have noticed anecdotally. There seems to be considerable stress on caregivers of patients receiving in-home care that no amount of home visits can take away. I wonder if this is because caregivers feel that the ultimate responsibility for their loved ones' well-being lies with them if they are at home, but not if they are in hospital.

—Julia A. Wildish MD CCFP
Quispamsis, NB

Reference

1. Stewart M, Sangster JF, Ryan BL, Hoch JS, Cohen I, McWilliam CL, et al. Integrating Physician Services in the Home. Evaluation of an innovative program. *Can Fam Physician* 2010;56:1166-74.

Correction

The incorrect correspondence information was provided in the Case Report, "Inadvertent use of a levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine device as postcoital contraception," which appeared in the December 2010 issue.¹ The correct information is as follows:

Correspondence

Dr Adam Newman, Street Health Centre, 235 Wellington St, Kingston, ON K7K 0B5; telephone 613 549-1440; e-mail adamn@nkchc.kchc.ca

Canadian Family Physician apologizes for any inconvenience this might have caused.

Reference

1. Newman A. Inadvertent use of a levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine device as postcoital contraception. *Can Fam Physician* 2010;56:1301-2.

Make your views known!

To comment on a particular article, open the article at www.cfp.ca and click on the Rapid Responses link on the right-hand side of the page. Rapid Responses are usually published online within 1 to 3 days and might be selected for publication in the next print edition of the journal. To submit a letter not related to a specific article published in the journal, please e-mail letters.editor@cfpc.ca.

Faites-vous entendre!

Pour exprimer vos commentaires sur un article en particulier, ouvrez l'article à www.cfp.ca et cliquez sur le lien Rapid Responses à droite de la page. Les réponses rapides sont habituellement publiées en ligne dans un délai de 1 à 3 jours et elles peuvent être choisies pour publication dans le prochain numéro imprimé de la revue. Si vous souhaitez donner une opinion qui ne concerne pas spécifiquement un article de la revue, veuillez envoyer un courriel à letters.editor@cfpc.ca.
