



MEDICAL IN TOUCH

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Home Health and Hospice provide seamless transitions for patients

Charlene's a fighter.

The 53-year-old wife and mother of five girls has battled cancer for eight years. She's had more downs than ups lately. After a hospitalization last spring, her husband Butch said the

doctors advised him to take her to a nursing home to die.

"I took a look at them and said no, she's coming home," Butch said. "She prospered. I don't think she would have done as well going into a nursing home."

Butch credits his wife's strong spirit, the care provided by him and

Charlene's daughters and Hospice of the Valley's Home Health and hospice teams for Charlene beating the odds. Charlene has moved from Home Health to hospice and back to Home Health since March—all within the comfort of her own home.

"That's the beauty of our Home Health program," said Heidi Foreman, RN, who has experience in oncology. "Typically, the goal of Home Health is for people to get better, to heal, to be cured. However, our Home Health is more specific to the patient with palliative needs. We're seeing patients who are still seeking treatment for their life-limiting disease, but most of them have a limited prognosis."

Heidi visits Charlene weekly. Butch describes Heidi as "one of the nicest people I've ever met in my life." He knows that someday "we will switch back to hospice because we'll be more in the grief mode than the caregiver mode. Now we're in the caregiver mode."



Heidi Foreman, RN, with Home Health patient Erika Paden

With Hospice of the Valley's Home Health, transitions are seamless. Some members of the team will change—and coverage for medications and durable medical equipment will vary depending on whether it's hospice or Home Health—but continuity of care is maintained.

Services are provided throughout Maricopa and northern Pinal counties through Arizona Palliative Home Care, a program of Hospice of the Valley. Currently home health services are covered by Medicare Part A, Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Mayo insurance. Arizona Palliative Home Care is exploring agreements with several Medicare HMO plans and looks forward to reaching more people in need over the coming year.

For patients with serious or complex disease processes and a prognosis of 12 months or less, call 602.287.7050.

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Here's your latest edition of Hospice of the Valley's *Medical In Touch*.

HOV is now serving Casa Grande

Hospice of the Valley now serves patients and families in northern Pinal County, including the greater Casa Grande area, Florence, Coolidge and surrounding areas.



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