



Chicken Soup and a Nurse

Menorah Park Home Health Services takes its patient care approach beyond the traditional nurse's visit. Here's how the team provides an extra measure of comfort.

by **Nina PolienLight**

There's more to home health care than dispensing pills, checking blood pressure and overseeing physical therapy. The folks at *Menorah Park Home Health Services* know that kind gestures and friendship also nurture a person's well-being.

"Recalling the loving care of mom and the comforts of her cooking, we call it 'Chicken Soup and a Nurse,'" laughs Barbara Marcelletti, home health administrator. "When

clients are discharged from a hospital or rehab center, they may have been gone a long time and not have local family to assist them. Our nurses bring five main meals a week at no cost to Medicare clients. Typically, the meals contain soup, a main course, vegetables, fruit and bread."

Skilled and unskilled care is provided to clients in seven counties. Covered through Medicare and private insurance plans, skilled care includes services from nurses, home health aides, medical social workers and physical, occupational and speech therapists. In the private pay unskilled care program, home health aides assist clients with bathing, dressing and activities of daily living.

Just as importantly, staff members inspect each client's home for potential safety hazards.

"We determine things like whether or

not a client needs to move a coffee table to access the couch better with his walker, or if pots, pans and dishes are organized in a way that he can access them easily and without injury to himself," Barbara explains. "We take a multidisciplinary approach. Our nurses, therapists and others all look at the home within their areas of expertise to make sure it's as safe as possible."

Clients are treated as people rather than numbers from the moment they contact Menorah Park. A live person answers every call 24/7.

"We're not so big that when you call you have to press 1 or 2 for this or that," Barbara notes. "We know our clients and they know us."

A community liaison works with referring facilities and physicians before discharge.

"They even visit patients in the hospital to make sure care will be seamless from the facility to home—at no additional cost," Barbara says. "After completing home health care, clients may need additional support. We can help them along the way through other Menorah Park programs, including a variety of physical and occupational therapies, adult day programs and even housekeeping."

Menorah Park Center for Senior Living is located at 27100 Cedar Road, in Beachwood. The phone number is 216-595-7333 and the web address is www.menorahpark.org.



Caring Comes Home