

Making Referrals:

With expanded services and territories, the goal of VNS of Connecticut is to meet all of your home care needs with the same commitment to high quality, professional services you've experienced.

Call us 24 hours a day, seven days a week to make a referral and we will take care of the rest. Our intake motto is, *"One call, problem solved."*

1.800.551.8671

www.vnsct.org



Bringing HEART to Home Care

Corporate Headquarters
765 Fairfield Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

www.vnsct.com

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*Serving Fairfield, Litchfield
and New Haven Counties*

NewsUPDATE

A Quarterly Publication for VNS of Connecticut Providers

Dr. McDonald Named To VNS Board of Directors

Bridgeport Hospital's Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs, Bruce McDonald, M.D., has been named to a three-year appointment to the VNS of Connecticut Board of Directors. The agency board approved Dr. McDonald's appointment at its February 5 meeting.

Dr. McDonald has served as the hospital's chief physician since 1987. In that post, he managed the 850 person medical staff, oversees the hospital's credentialing process



Bruce McDonald, M.D.

and ensured compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements. Dr. McDonald is president of the nonprofit Mill Hill Medical Consultants practice of 68 physicians who provide services for community residents at Bridgeport Hospital. He has certifications from the American Board of Pediatrics, the American sub-Board of Pediatric Nephrology and the American Board of Medical Management.

Jeanne Bodyk Named Permanent Administrator



Jeanne Bodyk, R.N., B.S.N.

Jeanne Bodyk, R.N., B.S.N., active in home health nursing for more than 20 years, has been named VNS of Connecticut's Administrator and Executive Vice President by the agency's board of directors. Mrs. Bodyk had been serving as interim Administrator since the departure last year of Mary Linda Rivera.

As VNS' second in command, Mrs. Bodyk has overall responsibility for agency operations, with specific emphasis on clinical initiatives.

Mrs. Bodyk began her work in home health as a nurse for the Trumbull Public Health Nursing Association, which later merged with the Fairfield VNA to form United Visiting Nurse Association. Mrs. Bodyk subsequently rose to Vice President, Patient Care with United before VNS' asset acquisition with United in 2005, which formed one of Connecticut's largest home health providers, serving residents of Fairfield, New Haven and Litchfield counties.

Federal Government Selects VNS For Quality Review

Officials at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) have notified the agency that VNS of Connecticut is among a handful of home health providers in the state being selected to participate in a new pay-for-performance demonstration. For CMS, this is the latest in a series of initiatives designed to improve overall patient outcomes for Medicare beneficiaries. Agencies in seven states across the country have been selected for this program. CMS staff will monitor seven VNS patient quality measures over the next two years, including:

- **incidence of acute care hospitalization;**
- **incidence of any emergent care;**
- **improvement in bathing;**
- **improvement in ambulation/locomotion;**
- **improvement in transferring;**
- **improvement in status of surgical wounds, and**
- **improvement in management of oral medications.**

Connecticut agencies participating in the study group, which includes VNS, will be eligible for incentive payments after the two year period for high quality in each category statewide or most improvement in quality in each category.

VNS Notes...

VNS use of telemonitoring machines to deliver patient care continues to increase. The agency currently has nearly 100 machines in patient homes, helping agency staff and physician providers to monitor changes in patient health and make more timely adjustments to care plans. VNS' own studies have shown the monitors help to reduce re-hospitalizations and improve oral medication and dietary compliance among patients. The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid support the use of telemonitoring and the role it will play in new pay for performance requirements in the years ahead. For more information about the VNS Telemonitoring Program, contact Lou Carpino at 203.330.5507 or Mark Chudwick at 203.330.3358.



We welcome your weekend referrals. Nursing supervisors are available at VNS on Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Nursing supervisors are available on call during the evening and early morning hours. Any time of day, the number is the same, **1.800.551.8671**.



Interested in reduced-priced tickets to the Travelers Championship in June, while at the same time supporting VNS of Connecticut? Our Development Office is participating in the tournament's *Chip In For Charity* program this year. One day tickets are available for a discounted price of \$20, with half going to help support VNS. This year's event is scheduled for **June 16-22, with most of the world's best players participating at the TPC River Highlands in Cromwell.** For more information on this great offer, contact Lila Grimes at 203.366.3821 X1111.

Provider Survey On The Way

Over the next few weeks, VNS of Connecticut Customer Relations and Marketing staff will be distributing a short survey to thousands of the agency's providers and referral sources to gauge how well our agency is serving the needs of you and your patients. It has been a couple of years since we last asked for your feedback, something that is critical to our being able to improve our services. So, when you receive your questionnaire, please make time in your busy schedules to take a few minutes to fill it out and return it. Whether signed or anonymous, your opinions and recommendations are important to us.

VoiceCare A Lifesaver, Says 'Partners' Director

Linda Melodia is a believer.

When she and her family members decided to get a VoiceCare personal emergency response system for their ailing mother last fall, they had no idea how soon it would that decision would pay off.

One morning, just before Thanksgiving, Mrs. Melodia's mother awoke unable to move from her bed. Her blood pressure had dropped drastically overnight and without immediate attention, her life would be in jeopardy. But a simple push of the VoiceCare necklace pendant button connected her with an emergency response attendant who immediately assessed her condition as serious and notified first responders. Within minutes, Mrs. Melodia's mother was on her way to the hospital, where doctors later confirmed that the VoiceCare system had helped save her life.

Thus, Mrs. Melodia, the director of Partners In Care, the private duty subsidiary of the nonprofit Visiting Nurse Services of Connecticut, became a strong believer in the VoiceCare system, which her agency is now offering to other families throughout the State of Connecticut.

The VoiceCare system is available through Partners In Care at a one time installation fee of \$50 plus a highly competitive monthly rate of \$34.95.

"For my family, the cost of the system was nominal when we considered the peace of mind it brought for us that our mother was taken care of in the event of an emergency," Mrs. Melodia said. "Never did we think that it would actually save her life within just a couple of months. I believe in VoiceCare and am very pleased we can offer this type of protection to other families."

For more information about VoiceCare, contact Partners In Care at 1.800.524.6475.

Announcing...

VoiceCare two-way voice personal emergency response system —

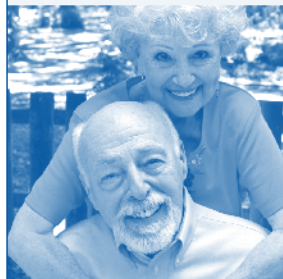
delivers round-the-clock protection 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week.

With VoiceCare you will:

- Ensure immediate access to assistance.
- Reduce the anxiety of living alone.
- Gain valuable peace of mind at a great price.



Call Today!
VoiceCare by Partners In Care
Toll-Free: 1.800.524.6475



 **Partners In Care, Inc.**
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CONNECTING YOU WITH THE ONES YOU LOVE AND THE ONES YOU NEED 24 HOURS A DAY, EVERY DAY

A Complete Continuum of Care

Whether the need is skilled care, compassionate end-of-life care or private-duty personal care, VNS has the resources to meet these needs. We use the latest in technology to supplement our expert, personalized approach to patient home care.

OUR SERVICES

Core Services

- Skilled Nursing
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Medical Social Work
- Home Health Aides

Value-Added Technology

- Home Health Telemonitoring
- VoiceCare 24 personal emergency response system

Hospice & Palliative Care

- End-of-Life Care
- Pain & Symptom Management
- Grief Counseling
- Support Groups

Our Specialty Services

- Hi-Tech Home IV Therapy
- Wound Care/Wound Vac/Ostomy Care
- Psychiatric Nursing
- Nutritionists
- Elder Care Planning & Coordination
- Care for the Caregiver
- Pain Management Services
- Free Needs Assessment

Personal Care & Quality of Life Services

- Bathing and Personal Assistance
- Live-Ins, Sleep-Ins
- Companion/Homemaker



Towns now served by VNS of Connecticut

Ansonia	Litchfield	Shelton
Barkhamsted	Middlebury	Southbury
Beacon Falls	Milford	Southport
Bethany	Monroe	Stamford
Bethel	Morris	Stratford
Bethlehem	Naugatuck	Thomaston
Bridgeport	New Canaan	Torrington
Darien	New Hartford	Trumbull
Derby	New Haven	Watertown
East Haven	Newtown	West Haven
Easton	North Haven	Weston
Fairfield	Norwalk	Westport
Goshen	Orange	Wilton
Greenwich	Oxford	Winchester
Hamden	Roxbury	Winsted
Harwinton	Seymour	Woodbridge
		Woodbury

