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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Improving Patient Care at Home**

#### **NEWS**

The Hastings-Quinte Paramedic Service will soon begin enrolling patients with certain chronic diseases in a remote monitoring demonstration program, in partnership with Future Health Services Inc.

Patients enrolled in the program will be able to have their vital signs including heart rate, blood pressure, weight and blood oxygen saturation levels monitored remotely, in their homes, by community paramedics.

Remotely monitoring patients allows earlier interventions before their conditions escalate to the stage where they would normally have to be taken to the hospital emergency room. It also offers the possibility of family members conveniently being able to follow the state of their relative's condition.

Data will be assessed to determine to what extent in-home monitoring can reduce emergency room visits by patients and what savings to the health care system might result from monitoring efforts.

#### **QUOTES**

"This is an exciting day for our Paramedic Service and for patients who are enrolled across both Hastings and Prince Edward Counties," said Bernice Jenkins, Chair of the Joint Emergency Services Committee. "We are eager to get the demonstration project underway," she added.

"Our service regularly looks to embrace new technologies that both benefit the people we serve and help us reduce health care costs," said County Warden Rick Phillips.

"Remote patient monitoring offers the latest chance put into practice that philosophy and our community paramedics look forward to working with the patients one on one along with their families," stated Chief John O'Donnell.

“We are very excited to be part of this project,” says Rick Whittaker on behalf of Future Health Services Inc. “Remote patient care is a perfect addition to the very successful community paramedicine program. Remote patient care will allow community paramedics to assist more patients with the same resources, which has the potential to save money and more importantly keep patients in their homes longer.”

## **BACKGROUND & HIGHLIGHTS**

- Each patient will be part of the program for 3-6 months;
- The program will run for 18 months;
- Data will be analyzed through a partnership with Queens University
- Future Health Services Inc. is coordinating activities here in Hastings County, as well as in Essex, Grey, Renfrew, Parry Sound, Cochrane, Chatham-Kent and Guelph/Wellington Counties.
- This RPM project is one of a number of similar efforts across the country and funded by Canada Health Infoway.
- Residents interested in the program can call 1-866-997-9928

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