Pulmonary Care
This program serves patients with emphysema, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), recurrent pneumonia and other respiratory conditions. Our respiratory nurses and therapists work with patients, physicians and caregivers to develop strategies and techniques to maximize the patient’s breathing abilities, physical endurance and independence.

Lifeline
Lifeline Personal Emergency Response System allows patients to push a personal help button to call for help from anywhere in their home when they are unable to reach a phone. The system supports a patient’s independence and can reduce long-term hospital stays. Lifeline is available for a low monthly fee.

Referrals
We realize that patients may need additional services that are not provided by St. Peter’s. In these instances, our staff can help make referrals to other community resources.

Payment for Services
Most insurance plans, as well as Medicare, Medicaid, third party and private payment, are accepted. The Mercy Healthcare Benefits (MHB) program is also accepted.

MHB is a charity care program available to poor persons who do not qualify for health insurance, and meet certain income and other requirements. To learn more about this program, call St. Peter’s Business Office at (518) 525-1565 or (518) 525-6760.

For More Information
For more information or to make a referral, please call St. Peter’s Hospital Home Care at (518) 525-6000.

St. Peter’s Hospital Home Care is accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

St. Peter’s Hospital continues to set the pace for health care innovations with rankings as a Top 100 Hospital in overall clinical care and services, Top 100 Cardiovascular Hospital and Top 100 Stroke Hospital.

We are 5,000 professionals who know that the latest technology is critical to treatment, but that compassion is the key to healing.
St. Peter’s Hospital Home Care
is the largest hospital-based program of its kind in upstate New York.

The program helps thousands of patients remain at home or return home sooner while recovering from illness, surgery or other medical conditions. Our caregivers respect the dignity of each person they serve and recognize how important family, friends, and familiar surroundings are to the patient’s sense of comfort and well-being.

Our highly skilled nurses, home health aides and rehabilitation therapists provide a growing range of services. Our Home Care team works with physicians, hospital staff, families and community agencies to develop a personal plan of care to address the physical, medical, psychosocial and spiritual needs of each patient.

Who Can Use St. Peter’s Home Care?

St. Peter’s Hospital Home Care is a Medicare-certified agency for patients living in Albany and Rensselaer counties. In order to enter a Medicare-certified home care program, a person must have the need for “skilled care” provided by a registered nurse, physical therapist or speech therapist. The patient must also be homebound and under the care of a physician. Once these requirements are met, the patient may be eligible to receive other home care services outlined in this brochure.

Home Care Services

St. Peter’s Hospital Home Care offers a wide range of services for each patient, depending on the patient’s needs.

Telehealth Care

Telehealth is a home monitoring system that provides daily clinical information on the client’s health status. This remote monitoring system transmits information to the nursing agency, via a telephone line, that includes the client’s heart rate, blood pressure, weight and oxygen saturation. A nurse in the home care agency evaluates the information and determines if a phone call or home visit is necessary. Daily telemonitoring is a way to supplement nursing visits which usually occur a couple times per week.

Skilled Nursing Care

Home Care registered nurses coordinate the patient’s plan of care with a physician and provide skilled services on an intermittent basis. The level of care and the number of visits depend on the patient’s needs. We also have a nurse on call 24-hours-a-day.

Physical Therapy

A physical therapist provides treatment and instruction to help restore a patient to his/her highest level of function. Therapy may focus on overall strengthening, or on a specific problem caused by an injury, illness or surgery. Instruction is also given to family members who are encouraged to participate in the treatment plan.

Speech Therapy

Speech and language pathologists help patients who have communication difficulties, cognition disorders (problems processing information in the brain) or swallowing disorders.

Occupational Therapy

An occupational therapist provides treatment to help a patient gain greater independence in performing daily activities. This may include improving physical dexterity and upper body strength, and regaining the ability to cook, do housecleaning or care for one’s self. The therapist may also help to obtain specialized equipment for the patient, and arrange for structural alterations to be made to the home to maximize home safety and independence.

Home Health Aides

Patients receiving skilled care may also need a home health aide. Home health aides help patients with personal care, exercises, meal preparation, and light housekeeping. St. Peter’s home health aides must complete a New York State Department of Health-approved certification course, and receive ongoing education and clinical supervision.

Medical Social Workers

Medical Social Workers help patients and their families with the physical, emotional or financial challenges that often accompany an illness. This may include helping patients communicate more effectively with their physicians, nurses and other caregivers; and serving as a support person for the family in dealing with insurance companies, government agencies and community services.

Nutrition Services

A registered dietician offers nutritional counseling and instruction to patients and their families, and develops a diet plan to meet the patient’s individual needs based on cultural and personal choices.

Home Intravenous (IV) Services

St. Peter’s Hospital Home Care registered nurses provide care for patients requiring a number of IV therapies including antibiotics, chemotherapy, nutritional supplementation (referred to as “total parenteral nutrition”), pain management and more. Skilled nurses provide treatment and instruction on IV care in the home.

Wound Care/Enterostomal Therapy

A certified nurse provides care and instruction in self-care techniques for patients in need of wound, skin or ostomy care (i.e., colostomy, ileostomy, etc.). The wound care program uses the latest techniques and products to help wounds heal faster.

Anodyne – Infrared Light Therapy

Physical therapists can provide anodyne treatments to decrease inflammation and increase circulation to tissues and nerves. Anodyne is a form of light therapy where conductive pads are attached to the patient, then connected to an infrared wave-producing machine to provide pain relief.

Patients Needing Special Services

St. Peter’s Hospital Home Care helps patients and families obtain the medical equipment needed to administer specialized treatments, and other types of equipment to maximize home safety and independence.

Going beyond the scope of traditional medical and surgical services, St. Peter’s Hospital Home Care also focuses on the specialized care programs outlined below.

Cardiac Surgical Care

This program is designed for those who have undergone cardiac bypass and/or valve replacement surgery. Our nurses monitor the patient’s recovery and provide education on how to maintain a healthier lifestyle.