



## **Physician HouseCalls program supports home care service delivery**

October 6, 2015 - Home Care Ontario congratulates Drs. Nowaczynski and Sinha on the success of the HouseCalls program reported by CBC this week. Physician intervention to address service provider and/or patient concerns enables ongoing care and, most importantly, is effective in keeping seniors at home. The data showed that “that among seniors in the program, the risk of hospitalization dropped by 55 per cent”.

Home care service provider organizations have well-developed care protocols and skills in the provision of 24/7 nursing, therapy and personal support services in the home. The HouseCalls program provides rapid access to direct in-home medical decision-making and care. This can negate the need for an unnecessary and difficult trip for a senior to another setting.

As the healthcare system in Ontario shifts to the community in order to better serve the aging population, it is vital to strengthen the linkage between physicians and front line service provider organizations and their staff. Home Care Ontario believes that this is an essential ingredient to providing Ontarians access to high quality service at home.

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### **About Home Care Ontario**

Home Care Ontario, *the voice of home care in Ontario™*, is a member-based organization with a mandate to promote growth and development of the home care sector through advocacy, knowledge transfer, and member service. Home Care Ontario members include those engaged in and/or supportive of home-based health care. In Ontario, service provider organizations are responsible for providing nursing care, home support services, personal care, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work, dietetics, speech language therapy and medical equipment and supplies in the home to individuals of all ages. An estimated 58 million hours of publicly and privately purchased home care service is provided annually across the province.

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