



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Alabama Department of Public Health celebrates November as National Home Care Month

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Approximately 7.6 million Americans receive home-delivered health care daily from nearly 20,000 home health providers in the nation. In their honor, the Alabama Department of Public Health joins the National Association for Home Care and Hospice in celebrating November as National Home Care Month with the theme, "The Center of Healthcare in America."

"Caring for the sick, elderly and dying in their homes truly is a privilege for us," said Grover Wedgeworth, director of the Bureau of Home and Community Services. "Home care professionals, volunteers and modern medicine make it possible for people to stay in their homes, regardless of their condition. Their dignity and control are important to their well-being."

Through technological advances, home-delivered health care has grown far beyond basic professional nursing and home care aide services. A wealth of services can be provided in the home which could include nursing, physical, occupational, respiratory and speech therapies.

Home care services are paid for by public and private sources, or directly by patients or their families. Third-party payers include commercial insurance, managed care organizations and workers' compensation. Home care continues to be the preferred means of receiving quality health care services for nearly five million Americans.

The Alabama Department of Public Health has provided quality home care since the inception of the department and has provided Medicare-certified home health care since 1966.

Services provided include comprehensive in-home health and support services for Alabama's disabled and chronically ill patients and their families. Its caregiving team offers services ranging from basic assistance with daily living to advanced medical treatment.

Home care services are provided through three components of the bureau:

- Medicare/Medicaid certified home health agency
- Administering agency for the elderly and disabled Medicaid waiver
- Life care program

For more information about services available in your area, contact your county health department or call toll free statewide, 1-800- 225-9770.

