



**Advocates for the
Independent**
— **A Home Care Company**



Accountability of Care Through a Caregiver's Eyes

Presented by Kim Tweedel

May 2, 2012

Why is it so important to understand the elderly?

- Readmissions occur because of non compliance with medication, follow ups or intake of fluids and meals.
- Some fear loosing their independence by taking care, even if they can afford it.
- Be mindful of how you approach the elderly. Instead of referring to caregivers as caregivers, refer to them as housekeepers.

Dealing with the Elderly

- Our clients value their independence.
- They have lived a lifetime taking care of themselves and their families.
- Its very hard for them to face the fact that they can't do it on their own.
- Can you blame them for wanting to be independent?



We understand the importance of your

Independence.



The best way to put it...

- I was dealing with a client that was not receptive to care. Her daughter was corresponding with me and assisting us because her mother did not think she needed any care.
- The daughter her mother, "Remember when I was 15 and you told me you were looking out for my best interests? Now it's my turn to do so for you."

The Job of a Caregiver

- Medication reminders and assisting
- Weight monitoring
- Checking Blood Pressure
- Reporting issues to supervisor then she or he can relay to home health nurse or doctor.
- Make meals
- Reorder medication if running
- Take client to follow up visits.



Current Practices

- When discharged, the patient is given a book or list of home care agencies.
- The patient calls and discovers that Medicare doesn't pay for caregivers.
- The patient doesn't think they can afford the help.
- With no one to help them, they fall behind on taking their medication and do not visit their doctor for follow-ups.



A caregiver doesn't have to be expensive

We have had great success in just doing 1 to 2 hour visits a day.

When a little more attention is needed, we split the shift so that we visit for a couple of hours in morning and then return to check on them and get them ready for bed in the evening.

So Many things can be accomplished by having good dependable caregivers.



- Stand by for Safety
- Be there for companionship
- Prevent them from having to call 911



Advocates for the Independent

- Licensed by the Texas Dept of Aging and disability
- Insured and bonded
- Owner ran and operated –Not a Franchise
- Been in business since 2010
- Covers Harris, Montgomery, Waller, Fort Bend, Brazoria, Galveston and Jefferson Counties

What can we do for Case Management?

- Come to the Hospital before the patient is discharged and meet the patient to discuss and create the care plan.
- Be the bridge between Home Health.
- Set up the follow up visit.
- Pick up medications to have when returning home.
- Bring peace of mind that everything is in place.



In a perfect world of home care...

The caregiver goes home with the patient and takes care of them so that they get the care that is needed.

But...



Not all patients can afford our services

- There are bills being proposed to fund grants for caregiver training.
- There is also talk about grant money for those that can't afford the caregiver.
- Right now there are programs, but the wait can be weeks or months.

Questions and answers





When the need for home care pops up...

Call Advocates for the Independent

713 609-9908