About Geriatric House Call Program

As you are already aware, Dr. V.S. Natarajan Geriatric Foundation undertakes various activities towards achieving the singular goal of 'HAPPY ELDERHOOD’. One of the most important domains of the Foundation is the Geriatric House call program.

The vanishing of family physicians system coupled with the collapse of the joint families has made it more and more difficult to care for the elderly at their homes. The situation just gets worse if the elder is sick and bedridden. The immediate family finds it extremely difficult to transport the patient to a physician's clinic. It is not only difficult for the patient, it strains the care takers as well. Such a scenario puts tremendous pressure on the entire family fabric on a micro level.

Pained with such a scenario, Dr. V.S. Natarajan, along with Senior Citizens Bureau launched the Geriatric House call Project almost a decade ago in 2008. A team of Geriatricians & General Physicians were put in service to care for the elderly at the comfort of their respective homes. The program was of immense use to a large section of the elderly. As many as 6000 elders have come under the care of this program so far.

Overwhelmed with the results and the benefits the house call program offers to the elderly, now it is proposed to expand the range and scope of the House call project which would be the flagship project of Dr. V.S. Natarajan Geriatric Foundation.

Our Goals

◇ Addressing the shortage of competent medical professionals in geriatric care of homebound seniors
◇ Setting high standards in delivery of at home care of Senior citizens.
◇ Recognizing the outstanding achievements and quality improvement measures of fellow medical practitioners in caring for homebound seniors

Our Values

◇ We are dedicated above all to quality in processes and outcomes.
◇ We believe that a well-trained, collaborative, inter-professional team is a pressing necessity of home bound geriatric care.
◇ We strive to deliver individualized, goal-directed care during the geriatric house calls.
◇ We are a community – connected to and supportive of each other.

Components of a Geriatric House call

◇ Comprehensive geriatric assessment of the health of the patient
◇ Prescribing short term remedies for the ailments.
◇ Referring and follow up for specialist care.
◇ Prescribing safety measures and lifestyle changes for the patients.
◇ Developing individualised long term care plans for the elderly with family members/care givers.
◇ Assessing and communicating the needs of the elderly to the family members.
Advantages of Geriatric House Calls

- **Inclusion** - Elders who are frail, limited in mobility and/or cognitively impaired are not forgotten or lost in the system.
- **Reduction in costs** - House calls allow the doctors to better manage the patient and reduce the incidence of hospitalisation and continuous care can reduce disability and functional decline, all of which reduce healthcare costs.
- **Psychological benefits** - It allows the patient to remain in the comfort of his/her own home while receiving treatment, and encourages positive ageing through the preservation of daily routines and social supports.
- **Positive impact on the patient-physician relationship** - The physician is more likely to engage in thorough patient education, teaching the individual and their caregivers about self-care and the importance of compliance to medication regimens.
- **Better insight** - House calls invite the GP into the patient’s home, and the physician is given important insight into the patient’s personal circumstances. Facades that may be maintained at the Doctor’s office may be more difficult to conceal in the patient’s home.

Salient features of Dr. V.S. Natarajan Geriatric Foundation’s House call program

- Doctors/Physicians from across specialties on board.
- Doctors will be assigned a particular geographical location and visits shall be assigned within that locality only.
- Dedicated 24x7 call center manned by trained personnel & SOPs.
- Transparent system of charging and services shall be pre-paid through online modes.
- Payments to Doctors shall be done on a weekly/bi-monthly/monthly basis as per the convenience of the Doctor.
- Doctors shall be assisted continually while they are on a house call by Customer care executive and field support staff as required.
- Records of the patients shall be sent to Doctor’s mobilephone prior to their house visit.

Why should you join Dr. V.S. Natarajan Geriatric Foundation’s House call program

Dr V S Natarajan Geriatric Foundation passionately promotes the development of competent, compassionate and committed medical practitioners to provide goal centred care across the Elderly Healthcare domain.

We are devoted to build the best team of physicians with the knowledge and skills to care for older adults in a holistic, interdisciplinary, and systems-based process.

- **The Leader** - The Geriatric House Call Program is led by Dr. V.S. Natarajan, considered the ‘Father of Geriatric medicine’ in India – a leading Geriatrician, author and social activist for the cause of elderly care. Working with him is an unparalleled opportunity for personal and professional growth.
- **The Team** - Under the Geriatric House Call Program, you will be working alongside a team of highly qualified and dedicated Doctors. You will find daily inputs and inspirations from your interactions with them.
- **The Support** - In all your field assignments you will be provided logistic support from the dedicated team at the Dr. V.S. Natarajan Geriatric Foundation.
- **The Patients** - Indian culture has always valued the wisdom and guidance of the Elders. Working in close quarters with the patients who have a life time of experiences is a highly enriching experience.
- **Interactions with specialists** - Elderly care is rarely a single disease phenomenon. It is an area of overlapping and complex health conditions. As such the Geriatric House Call Program will give you the opportunity to work with specialists from multi disciplines.
- **Finance** - The program offers a consistent source of practice and revenue.

Self-satisfaction - Geriatric Medicine has been described as “general medicine with kindness.” Helping the seniors to live with dignity and a degree of independence is a highly rewarding experience.

Community engagement – You will have greater opportunity to get involved with local community and build relationships with people from all walks of life.

Personal relationships - Geriatric House Call Program involves closer involvement with patients and families in the healthcare delivery and decision making processes. As such it will help you build meaningful relationship with patients and family members.

Your Role in the Geriatric House Call Program

Your primary role is to diagnose and treat diseases affecting the elderly and also frequently work to improve their quality of life during the natural progression of ageing.

Contact

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