

## House Call Anyone?

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Did you know that Boston Medical Center has the oldest home visiting medicine program in the country? Established as a maternal child health program in 1875, physicians and medical students delivered health care in the home to immigrant mothers and children in the neighborhoods surrounding the Medical Center. 130 years later, primary care and nursing case management are still being delivered in the home but now to frail, vulnerable older adults who are homebound. The BU Geriatric Services provides an integrated system of care to elders who are seen in the ambulatory, home care, inpatient and nursing home settings.

How and when do I refer my older patient to the Home Care Program?

Not every older person needs an interdisciplinary team approach to their care but for those older adults with complex medical, functional and psychosocial issues a team effort with a multifaceted care plan is essential. It really does take a village!

Think about a referral to Home Care if your patient:

- Has advanced age and frailty
- Has multiple co-morbid conditions that negatively impact physical function (including the ability to come to clinic)
- Has cognitive impairment that interferes with access to health care
- Has family or others who are burdened by issues around caregiving for their elder

To qualify for Home Care patients must:

- Be 65 years old or older
- Live in the City of Boston
- Be willing to change their primary care provider to BU Geriatrics
- Be willing to receive their care at BMC

Please have a discussion about the referral with your patient and/or family before you make the referral. We do not accept new Home Care patients who are on hemodialysis.

To make a Home Care referral call:

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