

Your Health Matters

COUNTDOWN TO OUR HOME HEALTH SURVEY

“The Surveyor is here.” These will be the words I will hear from Laura Yelton, RN early in the morning in the next few weeks. The surveyor will call our 24/7 answering service to notify us that she would be at our home health agency by 8:45 AM. Nothing rattles your nerves more than hearing “The surveyor is here.”

Our survey inspection will be sometime in March maybe even next week. The time has come. We have been preparing and working hard for this home health survey for the past year. We know once the survey starts, the surveyor will be at the Montgomery County Health Department Home Health Agency for at least two days, and possibly three days.

This year, Medicare instituted new Conditions of Participation which are brand new rules and regulations for home health agencies across the nation. It went into effect on January 13, 2018. Laura and the nurses have been working as a team to implement all these new regulations. The surveyor will be inspecting our home health agency to see if we are compliant with the new Medicare regulations.

During the survey, the surveyor selects home health patients randomly and uses their medical record as roadmap to evaluate standards compliance. As the surveyor traces a patient’s experience with our home health agency, they talk to the nurses and therapists who interact with the patient. The surveyor also observes nurses and therapists providing care in the patient homes and interviews the patients themselves.

Last September, the Montgomery County Health Department Home Health Agency applied for a Certificate of Accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Health Care. Accreditation is regarded as one of the key benchmarks for measuring the quality of the home health agency.

Accreditation is another form of patient protection. It consists of a professional peer review administered by a private, non-profit organization, such as the Accreditation Commission for Healthcare structured to establish higher standards than what is required by the state of Missouri. The Accreditation Commission for Healthcare will be conducting our survey.

Receiving the ACHC accreditation is a testament of our commitment to our patients. It means “Best in Class” for a home health agency. It confirms the Montgomery County Health Department Home Health Agency is dedicated to excellence.

I give full credit to the commitment of our staff whose hard work has made it possible to continue bringing quality home health services to the residents of Montgomery County. I am exceptionally proud of the dedication and care the staff continue to deliver to our home health patients each and every day.

We are honored and humbled to be one of the best home health agencies in the country. Only 8% of the home health agencies in the country receive accreditation. And it is right here in Montgomery County..

The Montgomery County Health Department loves taking care of your family, and works every day to protect, promote and improve health in our community. To learn more, call 573-564-2495 or visit us online at www.montgomerycountyhealth.org or on Facebook or Twitter @healthyMOCO. ■

