



**RN Faye Bryant, Telehealth nurse manager, explains patient alerts to Paramedic Marc Creswell. Creswell is one of the paramedics being trained in the process of monitoring Telehealth patients.**

## **NEW HOME HEALTH TECHNOLOGY OFFERED NATIONWIDE**

- Allows patients to heal at home
- Improves patient care
- Improves recovery time
- Reduces hospital re-admissions

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Acadian TeleHealth Monitoring (ATM), a subsidiary of Acadian Ambulance Service, is partnering with home health agencies nationwide to take in-home medical testing and patient monitoring to a new level. ATM, through the use of state-of-the-art technology, will make home health company operations more efficient and cost-effective while at the same time allowing for superior patient care.

Blane Comeaux, vice president of Acadian Monitoring Services, parent organization under which Acadian operates ATM, says some of the advantages offered to home health services by ATM are improved patient outcomes, decreased unnecessary home visits, decreased hospital re-admissions and improved patient satisfaction.

Extensive in-home vital sign testing and patient monitoring is conducted by Acadian Ambulance Service paramedics, with support of registered nurses with home health experience. Clinicians provide 24/7 monitoring of patients, immediately notifying home health care partners of patients at risk.

The advanced technology employed by ATM was developed by Viterion TeleHealthcare LLC, a joint venture between the Diabetes Care Division of Bayer HealthCare LLC, a member of the Bayer Group, and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., best known by its Panasonic brand.

The technology is particularly valuable, according to Comeaux, in monitoring patients who have returned home after being hospitalized for an acute health condition. "It allows

the Acadian Ambulance Service professionals to monitor the patient's daily vital signs and specific health condition," he says. "This allows home health care services to provide a high level of care with fewer in-home nursing visits. The advanced monitoring technology helps guard against an acute reoccurrence and can result in faster recovery time and reduced cost to the patient," Comeaux added.

The technology, according to Comeaux, provides specially trained medics with a mechanism for collecting and storing data necessary for specific disease management and monitoring. The home care patient's data such as blood pressure, blood glucose, body weight, blood oxygen, pain levels and temperature is accessed in a clinical setting where specially trained Acadian paramedics interpret it. In addition, disease-specific education, advice messages and scheduled reminders are shared with the patient. The technology allows for two-way communication between the patient and their home health agency.

Among other benefits, this aids in preventing rehospitalization by stabilizing the patient sooner upon discharge from the hospital and in reducing the number of in-home visits by the home health companies utilizing ATM services. "We believe the unique skills and training of our Acadian Ambulance Service personnel ideally suit them for efficient employment of the special technology developed by Viterion TeleHealthcare LLC," Comeaux said. "We are very familiar with using technology to remotely provide care. We pioneered telemedicine on Alaska's North Slope where, in cases of accident or illness, paramedics using a specially designed scope transmitted diagnostic quality images to a doctor in Anchorage. Today, Telemedicine and the other life-saving technology that we employ make it possible for a patient on the most distant platform in the Gulf of Mexico to be examined by a physician in a hospital emergency room. This is just one area in which the experience of Acadian Ambulance Service fits perfectly with the technological advances of Viterion TeleHealthcare LLC."

Sunil Harazay, President and CEO of Viterion TeleHealthcare LLC, points out that, as the population continues to age, a greater number of people are experiencing chronic illnesses requiring hospitalization and ongoing care. "The need for home care services is expected to escalate," he says, "forcing home health care agencies to look for cost-effective ways to care for these patients. Telehealth technology can improve access to care while reducing the cost of delivering quality healthcare."

Richard Zuschlag, Chairman and CEO of Acadian Ambulance Service, says Acadian TeleHealth Monitoring personnel have gone through extensive training in the use of Viterion TeleHealthcare technology and are uniquely prepared to partner with home health service providers in providing a higher level of care for such patients -- delivered with improved efficiency and economy. "The proficiency of our people and the capabilities of the highly advanced technology in remotely conducting in-home testing and patient monitoring will usher in a new and more rewarding era for our home health care partners and their patients," Zuschlag concluded.

Acadian Ambulance Service, parent company of Acadian Monitoring Services and Acadian TeleHealth Monitoring, is the nation's largest privately owned ambulance service. Launched in 1971 in Lafayette, Louisiana, the company has grown steadily until it now serves over two million people in LA, TX and MS in 36 parishes and counties.

The Acadian staff includes 2,289 employees. Medics operate from 106 stations utilizing 225 ground ambulances, six air ambulance helicopters, and five fixed-wing airplanes. Acadian Integrated Solutions, a subsidiary of Acadian Ambulance, offers an extensive array of services in the categories of safety, training and medical. AIS also provides medics for offshore oil and gas installations in the Gulf of Mexico and internationally.

Acadian has twice been voted the best ambulance service in the nation by the Community Services Committee of the American Ambulance Association, and has been cited by high-tech guru Bill Gates for its use of advanced technology. Recognized for developing a communications capability that is second to none in the nation, the company was exceptionally well positioned for the move into in-home diagnostic testing and patient monitoring

Life-saving efforts in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita won the men and women of Acadian Ambulance Service one of the most coveted honors in the emergency medical services field, the 2006 James O. Page Leadership Award, plus commendations from President George W. Bush and former President George H. Bush.

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