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ANTELOPE VALLEY HOSPITAL CELEBRATES NATIONAL HOME CARE MONTH

(LANCASTER, CA – November 25, 2009) —Every year, more than 11 million Americans receive home-delivered health care from home health providers. In their honor, Antelope Valley Hospital (AVH) joins the National Association for Home Care & Hospice in celebrating November as National Home Care Month.

"Patients can heal faster in a comfortable, familiar environment," says Patti Sheldon, Director of AV Home Care. "Home care professionals, volunteers and modern medicine make it possible for people to stay in their homes, regardless of their condition."



Anne Urizar, RN with a home care patient

"Home care improves quality of life by allowing patients to heal where they are most comfortable," states Edward Mirzabegian, AVH Chief Executive Officer. "We want our patients to be able to go home as soon as they can, but still receive the best medical care we can provide. Home care is less expensive than a lengthy hospital stay and offers the medical advantage of allowing patients to recover or rehabilitate among family and friends in their home."

Through technological advances, home-delivered health care has grown far beyond basic professional nursing and home care aide services. AV Home Care offers a full spectrum

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of home health services including skilled nursing, personal care assistance, rehabilitation services, as well as a master's-trained medical social worker. The agency also provides a variety of specialized services such as IV therapy, wound care, pain management, newborn visits and pediatric care. It is fully accredited by the Joint Commission. AV Home Care is proud to provide services to over 150 valley residents each month and makes over 9,600 home visits per year.

In order to receive Home Health Services, a physician's referral is required. For further information on whether or not Home Care is appropriate, contact your Primary Care Physician or call Antelope Valley Home Care at (661) 949-5938. The agency accepts most forms of payment and insurance.

About Antelope Valley Hospital

Celebrating more than 50 years of caring for the community, Antelope Valley Hospital, a facility of Antelope Valley Healthcare District, is a non-profit, 420-bed hospital that was founded in 1955. The hospital is dedicated to providing quality care and services to everyone in the Antelope Valley. AV Hospital is located at 1600 West Avenue J in Lancaster, California. For further information, please visit www.avhospital.org or call 661-949-5000.

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