



The Care Guidance Program is now the Health Buddy® Program at Montefiore!

As part of a project funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Care Guidance Program has partnered with Robert Bosch Healthcare to offer *free in-home tele-monitoring and care management services to select fee-for-service Medicare beneficiaries in the Bronx.*

The Health Buddy Program is designed to help participants with complex medical needs improve their quality of life, prevent complications of their illness, and lower their healthcare costs by reducing the need for emergency room visits and avoidable hospitalizations.

Care management staff members are currently reaching out to the existing 1,800+ participants to transition them to the new program. This past fall, Medicare invited additional fee-for-service Bronx Medicare beneficiaries with complex medical needs to participate in the Health Buddy Program. If any of your patients are selected, please encourage them to participate. They can continue to see their own doctors, choose their own specialists and receive treatment from any hospital or facility they choose. There are a number of benefits to physicians as well, including:

- Patient monitoring by CMO- Care Management Company clinical staff via the Health Buddy device and communication with providers when problems are identified
- Availability of clinical staff who will communicate with and educate patients about their conditions and treatment plan thus freeing valuable office time
- Assistance addressing psychosocial stressors that impact the patient's ability to follow treatment plans
- No change to administrative or Medicare claims procedures

The CMO Health Buddy Program staff looks forward to working collaboratively with beneficiaries and providers to:

- Promote better health
- Help physicians manage high risk patients
- Reduce avoidable emergency room visits and hospital admissions
- Improve the quality of life for both patients and their caregivers

The Health Buddy Program at Montefiore is not an HMO, Medicare Advantage, managed care or other insurance plan. This demonstration program is free and available for beneficiaries selected by Medicare to participate. They remain in fee-for-service ("Original") Medicare with all their Medicare benefits. If you would like more information about the Health Buddy Program at Montefiore or about the Health Buddy device, please call Alessandra Taverna-Trani, Project Director, at **914-377-4691**.