

About the VNA of South Central CT

Founded in 1904, the VNA/SCC, the original VNA of New Haven, Milford and the Valley, is a licensed, non-profit, community based home health care agency. The VNA/SCC staff consists of registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, rehabilitative therapists, medical social workers and home health aides. A vital resource to the communities they serve, the VNA/SCC provides: home safety assessments, immunization clinics, well child clinics, Nurturing Families Network and HIV caregiver workshops. Private duty home care services are available through *CareSource*, Inc. Additional information on the agency's community programs and home health care services is available at www.vnascc.org.



VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT, INC.

CareLink

Program

**One Long Wharf Drive, Suite 501
New Haven, CT 06511**

www.vnascc.org

What is CareLink?

CareLink is an innovative program developed to assist people manage chronic conditions. It allows the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut (VNA/SCC) to provide long-term care and follow up to our patients who need assistance in the management of their chronic conditions when they are no longer eligible for compensated care.

Who is eligible for admission to the program?

Any person who can use continued support after their discharge from skilled services with the VNA/SCC. There are absolutely no restrictions because of payer sources with the program. The program is free of charge to the clients. The VNA/SCC partners with area nursing schools to provide health maintenance care to those no longer eligible for compensated care.

At anytime a CareLink client can request to be removed from the program.

Tell me about the student nurses who participate in CareLink?

Currently, we work with fourth-year nursing students from Southern Connecticut State University and students from Yale University School of Nursing who are studying for their advanced degrees. Student nurses, in partnership with community resources, the VNA/SCC, and their nursing faculty use relationship building techniques and capacity building activities that empower older adults to maintain and promote health.

Tell me about the VNA/SCC patients who participate?

Patients who:

- Have a chronic illness and need additional support or teaching to prevent adverse events, i.e.: frequent hospitalizations for patients living with Heart Failure
- Have Diabetes, requiring additional support managing their dietary choices to prevent hypo and hyper-glycemic episodes and medication management,
- Have a need for a condition check and an assessment of their vital signs,
- Are socially isolated and can benefit from a therapeutic visit.

These are just a few examples of those patients who can benefit from CareLink.

What types of services are available?

Every student begins by reviewing a patient referral sheet which summarizes the patient's care while they were treated during their skilled episode. CareLink clients participate in a Health Maintenance Activity Inventory, a Fall Risk Assessment and Intervention, lessons on Health Literacy and instructions for preparing for doctor's appointment, medication cueing, physical assessment and condition checks, inventories of their quality of life and risk for depression.

At the point of referral, the program director clearly articulates the difference between what a student nurse can provide, and what their licensed nurse was able to provide under their skilled episode. Once the patient can verbally state they are interested in participating in the program, they are sent a letter outlining the program, and an information letter is sent to their physician explaining the program.

How can I find out more about the program?

**For further information
please contact**

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Director of Community Health & Wellness,
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In summary

As a model of care, CareLink promotes self-management and health maintenance for homebound and non-homebound patients no longer eligible for skilled services. We incorporate a culture of caring, promote and support health literacy and a clear communication initiative, client learning and self-efficacy. The program goal is to assist interested clients in staying at their optimal level of wellness and independence, providing educationally rewarding learning opportunities for future practitioners, and an expanded level of care for patients who are discharged from the VNA/SCC.