

## BRAIN BREAK!



	8				2		
				8	4		9
		6	3	2			1
	9	7					8
8			9		3		2
	1					9	5
	7			4	5	8	
	3		7	1			
		8					4

Sudoku provided by [www.SudokuOfTheDay.com](http://www.SudokuOfTheDay.com).

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

# Teaming Up to Provide Care

#### PLUS:

Finding Legislative Solutions;  
Growing With Our Patients,  
and the EPSDT program



# Thriving at Home

## CARE AT HOME TAKES A VILLAGE

This story is dedicated to Paul, who made the world a brighter place.  
2003-2014



Cover Story

Caring for children with medical complexities at home has made Nancy and her partner, Morgan, proficient in

running medical equipment. But that wasn't always the case.

"When our son Logan came home, we'd never cared for a child on a vent," says Nancy. "We took classes with PHS, and a respiratory therapist came to our home to ensure we knew how to work the equipment properly. Now, we have two children each on a vent."

With children whose diagnoses range from extreme prematurity to myotubular myopathy, this family has been with PHS for more than 11 years.

"We can provide love, but not the medical or nursing care," notes Nancy. "All the pieces come together as a team to keep these kids going."

**Read more:**

[PediatricHomeService.com/blog/care-at-home](http://PediatricHomeService.com/blog/care-at-home)



### Legislative Solutions

#### LOBBYING FOR QUALITY CARE AT HOME

Families who receive homecare nursing for their child know nurses provide the same high-level, complex care in the home as nurses working in institutional settings, but they are paid less.

Supporting equitable reimbursement was a major focus for PHS this legislative session. Equal pay for home-based and institution-based nurses is essential to ensure that Minnesota continues to provide high-quality care for its pediatric citizens at home.

Additionally, a bill to maintain current Minnesota Medical Assistance (MN MA) reimbursements and eliminate the potential for 'competitive bidding' was introduced, as well as a proposal to clearly define DME providers as a basic care service provider under state law.

**Read more from our Government Relations Counsel at:**  
[PediatricHomeService.com/blog/legislative-solutions](http://PediatricHomeService.com/blog/legislative-solutions)



### Pharmacy Expansion

#### MEETING THE NEEDS OF A GROWING POPULATION

The number of pediatric patients with medically-complex diagnoses in Minnesota has significantly increased over the past 10 years. To continue to meet the infusion needs of this population, PHS recently completed an expansion of its infusion pharmacy.

The added space has allowed PHS to hire an additional pharmacist, enabling us to focus on improved health outcomes of our patients, which lowers medical costs.

"Thanks to our increased pharmacy capabilities and a rise in infusion therapies that can be delivered in home, we will continue to serve this growing patient population at the highest level possible," says Jill Liebers, Pharmacist in Charge at PHS."

**Read more:**  
[PediatricHomeService.com/blog/pharmacy-expansion](http://PediatricHomeService.com/blog/pharmacy-expansion)



### Message from Our Medical Director

#### EPSDT FOR MEDICAID PARTICIPANTS

Medicaid is a joint partnership between the federal government and each state to provide health care funding for low-income individuals. The Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program was developed by Medicaid and is available to improve children's health.

This program is a mandatory set of services and benefits for all individuals under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. With one in three U.S. children under age six being eligible for Medicaid, your patients (medically-complex or not) could be benefiting from this program.

The EPSDT program works with a wide variety of individuals and screens for physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, or vision problems at predetermined intervals. It also assures availability and accessibility of health care resources to help parents/guardians and recipients effectively utilize the services offered.

**Read more:**  
[PediatricHomeService.com/blog/EPSDT](http://PediatricHomeService.com/blog/EPSDT)

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