

# Shipping Policy Updates

**CHANGES TO GO INTO EFFECT JANUARY 1, 2018**

Proactively adapting to the changing healthcare landscape allows PHS to serve our patients without sacrificing clinical excellence.

One way you'll see this proactive strategy in action very soon is with the changes to our shipping policy. Starting January 1, 2018, patients will be able to order DME supplies up to 2 times per month and can expect delivery within 3 business days.

PHS will work alongside patient families to discuss supply organization and ordering practices to ensure a smooth transition. Using healthcare dollars wisely requires a collective effort on the part of PHS and our patient families, and we appreciate your support. Be sure to reach out with any questions.

**Learn more about the policy updates and find resources at:**  
[PediatricHomeService.com/blog/shipping-policy-resources](http://PediatricHomeService.com/blog/shipping-policy-resources)



2800 Cleveland Avenue North  
Roseville, MN 55113



Be sure to visit the Thrive blog at  
[PediatricHomeService.com/blog](http://PediatricHomeService.com/blog)

# PHS offers skilled nursing visits

**ANOTHER WAY OF IMPROVING ACCESS TO CARE**



In some instances, a child may be stable enough to be discharged from the hospital but still require professional nursing visits to treat a condition or ensure they're remaining healthy.

PHS now offers skilled nursing visits (SNV) for children who are in need of this service as determined by their physician.

**Learn more about what services are offered through SNV at:**  
[PediatricHomeService.com/blog/phs-now-offering-skilled-nursing-visits-SNV](http://PediatricHomeService.com/blog/phs-now-offering-skilled-nursing-visits-SNV)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

# Spina Bifida Doesn't Slow Garrett Down

## PLUS:

HopeKids is a top spot for the whole family, tips for making your monthly supply order easier, and our new nursing service



# Thriving at Home

## GARRETT WORKS TOWARD DECANNULATION



At 9 years old, Garrett has endured a lot of medical procedures and doctor appointments throughout his life - but that doesn't restrict what he's

capable of or willing to try.

"He plays sports, goes to school, has sleepovers with friends - he's doing everything his sister was at his age," says Garrett's mom, Melissa.

And now, Garrett has been off his vent for the past few months and is working toward decannulation with the help of his PHS respiratory therapist, Carrie Pritzl - whose care behind the scenes ensures his family can maintain a life filled with sports and activities for the kids.

"He doesn't give up, and spina bifida doesn't restrict what he can do," says his sister. "He's just the most self-confident, determined kid I know."

**To learn more about Garrett, see his video at [GarrettThrives.com](http://GarrettThrives.com).**



### **Giving Families Hope** **HOPEKIDS PROVIDES THE BEST** **IN SUPPORT**

In 2017, HopeKids Minnesota plans to host nearly 450 events for families who have a child with a life threatening condition - but that's nothing out of the ordinary for this organization.

When we compiled the results of our Top Spots survey, we weren't surprised to see HopeKids win the **top family support organization** category. We've seen families we serve at their events time and time again, and know just what a powerful medicine their mission provides.

Throughout the year, we're going to be featuring various winners in our Top Spots survey, this month we caught up with HopeKids at the PHS sponsored Fall Festival.

**Check out a video from this year's Fall Festival and learn more about HopeKids at:**

**[PediatricHomeService.com/blog/top-spots-hopekids](http://PediatricHomeService.com/blog/top-spots-hopekids)**

### **Efficient Supply Ordering** **EASY STEPS TO SIMPLIFY THIS** **TASK EACH MONTH**

Tracking supply quantities can be a difficult task when a medically complex child requires numerous items to meet their care needs.

But by maintaining an effective inventory management method and organization system, you can spend less time ordering supplies and more time confident that you will have what you need when you need it.

We recently asked our clinicians what tips and tricks they share with patient families to ensure they're able to maintain a monthly supply ordering schedule - leading to improved knowledge of supply inventory and spending of health care dollars.

**Talk with a PHS clinician or read more to learn what steps you can take to improve supply ordering at:**

**[PediatricHomeService.com/blog/efficient-supply-ordering](http://PediatricHomeService.com/blog/efficient-supply-ordering)**

### **Message From Our** **Medical Director** **CARE OF THE CHILD WITH SPINA** **BIFIDA**

Spina bifida is the most common neural tube defect identified in newborns. The implementation of folic acid into routine prenatal care has decreased the incidence of spina bifida. Despite this, 1,500 children are born each year in the US with spina bifida.

This multisystem disease warrants multidisciplinary support for the care of spina bifida patients and is often reflected in their home care requirements.

PHS offers comprehensive services that support patients with spina bifida at home. They may require: tracheostomy with or without home mechanical ventilation, a bowel-management program, gastrostomy tube for nutritional support, orthopedic support and home care nursing.

**Read Dr. Maynard's article on spina bifida at: [PediatricHomeService.com/blog/spina-bifida](http://PediatricHomeService.com/blog/spina-bifida)**

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Call **651-642-1825** or visit **[PediatricHomeService.com](http://PediatricHomeService.com)**.