



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION 2018 KIDS THRIVE CONFERENCE

**2018 Kids Thrive conference will focus on the role of the home care nurse in creating a seamless transition into adulthood for medically complex kids. [www.kidsthiveconference.com](http://www.kidsthiveconference.com)**

- Diagnoses of children with medically complex conditions include chronic, severe health conditions in two or more body systems, progressive or life limiting chronic conditions, or conditions that require a dependency on technology.
- Advances in medicine and technology are enabling children with medical complexity to live longer, creating an increasing population of medically complex young adults.
- The longer lifespan of these young adults involves clinical consultation involving multiple services. Many of these diagnoses were considered childhood diseases, including spinal muscular atrophy, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and spina bifida.
- Statistics compiled by the Children’s Hospital Association estimate that children with medical complexity comprise approximately 3 million of the nation’s 76 million children, with that this population is increasing at approximately 5% annually.

**Hosted by [Pediatric Home Service](#), [Gillette Specialty Healthcare](#) and [University of Northwestern](#), this unique conference for home care nurses includes the perspective of caregivers, healthcare providers and patients.**

- The transition to adulthood of this population is often overlooked as these patients “age out” of pediatric services and resources.
- The unique challenges include changing emotional needs of patients as well as the impact of specific diseases on the body and how interventions change as the patient ages.
- The patient’s perspective will be shared by Mark Siegel, JD, an attorney for the Minnesota Department of Human Services. He receives respiratory therapy from PHS to help manage his spinal muscular atrophy.

**On-going education and training are part of PHS’s commitment to ensuring that the skills and resources are available to keep kids safe and healthy – and thriving – at home.**

- Home care nurses continue to be in high demand, and educational opportunities specifically geared to this population of nurses is scarce. To ensure safe and quality home care, PHS offers this educational series specifically designed for home care nurses as well as extensive education services, training and resources for health care professionals and family caregivers.
- Previous PHS conferences have focused on other issues unique to medically complex kids and those who deliver services.

- The 2017 Emergency + Complex Pediatrics conference focused on collaboration between home care nurses and EMS professionals. That conference is now [available online](#).
  - The Hospital2Home conference in 2016 focused on how to safely transition complex pediatric patients from the hospital to their home with home care support.
- In 2017, PHS educators taught 432 classes with 1,449 total participants.
  - Classroom hours totaled 1,209 and 3,849.5 continuing education credits were earned by attendees.
- While the most often used communication and education materials for caregivers are available in Spanish, Hmong and Somali in addition to English versions, free translation is arranged as necessary to ensure family caregivers has access.
- The [PHS STAR Kit](#), first developed in 2006, allows caregivers to continually improve their knowledge of equipment use and be prepared to handle emergencies at home. The patient safety outcomes linked to this free training for PHS families, home care providers and referring physicians have shown marked improvement in equipment assessment, emergency backup equipment/batteries, oxygen safety, emergency AMBU bag and emergency patient response.