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Nascentia Health Nurse Presented with National Telehealth Award

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK - Nascentia Health employee and Minoa resident Kenneth Chrestler, RN has been recognized as a 2017 Telehealth Honors® awardee.

Presented by New Jersey-based Health Recovery Solutions (HRS), a pioneer in high-risk patient monitoring and telehealth, the Telehealth Honors® are the first awards in the nation to showcase outstanding stories of successful home-based patient care using telehealth technologies. According to the program's website, each honoree is a testament to how exceptional healthcare professionals are using modern telehealth solutions to enrich the lives of their patients while supporting the initiatives of their respective organizations.

Chrestler joined Nascentia Health in 2014 and has been a part of the system's Telehealth Care Monitoring Program for two years. In his role as a Registered Nurse, he utilizes telehealth technology as a tool to support patient and family engagement, enhance the patient experience and reduce hospital readmissions.

In nominating Chrestler for the Telehealth Honors® award, Associate Director of Patient Services Kathleen Salvaterra, RN, noted that he has mastered the efficient use of the HRS telehealth platform and become a true steward of Nascentia Health's telehealth care monitoring program.

"Ken embraced telehealth from the very beginning," Salvaterra stated. "He immediately recognized the technology's potential and quickly became one of its biggest advocates. Due to his hard work and tireless dedication to his patients and the program, he has achieved a hospital readmission rate well below the national and state average of 5.56%."

Nascentia Health's telehealth care monitoring program encompasses a wide variety of in-home equipment that records patient data such as weight, blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen levels. Within minutes, the readings are transmitted through phone lines to clinicians for a complete review. The technology enables clinicians to adjust services to meet a patient's changing needs, managing them more efficiently, improving their care, and often decreasing emergency room visits. In his day-to-day work, Chrestler utilizes the technology to remain in constant communication with his patients, using the program's web portal and telephone application to monitor them remotely while traveling or completing other visits. When he receives an alert that a patient has an abnormal or at-risk vital reading, he immediately follows up with a telephone call, text message or video chat to ensure the patient's needs are addressed accordingly.

"I am truly honored to be among the first recipients of HRS' Telehealth Honors®," Chrestler states. "I consider myself lucky to be in a position where I can utilize cutting edge technologies to help cut costs, expand access to care, prevent rehospitalizations and improve clinical outcomes."

Photo Caption: Nascentia Health employee Kenneth Chrestler, RN (right) poses with his 2017 Telehealth Honors® award and Associate Director of Patient Services Kathleen Salvaterra, RN (left).

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About Nascentia Health: Nascentia Health was born of the unification of VNA Homecare, VNA Homecare Options, Home Aides of Central New York and all their respective affiliated organizations and foundations. As a healthcare system without walls, Nascentia is an innovator in the concept of home healthcare, focusing on the patient as a whole and leveraging leading-edge care approaches and technologies to improve outcomes and quality of life. Specialties include: in-home nursing and medical services; home health aides and elder care; complete cross-continuum care management; community health and wellness programs; transportation, equipment and innovative care technologies; chronic disease management; and managed long-term care. The system's catchment area spans 48 counties across Central and Upstate New York.

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