

VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON

Agency Profile

The Visiting Nurse Association of Boston (VNAB) is a non-profit organization providing comprehensive and compassionate home healthcare and hospice services to Greater Boston residents. Every day, the agency's experienced nurses, therapists and home health aides visit the homes of thousands of patients and families from infant to elders in a range of socio-economic groups. The VNAB is also the largest provider of home healthcare to individuals who do not have the insurance or financial resources to receive essential care.

Behind the VNAB is 125 years of service to the Greater Boston community. Established in 1886 under the auspices of the Women's Education Association (WEA) and known as the Instructive District Nursing Association (IDNA), the IDNA was the first home health care providers in the country. Nurse; Emelia Hogkiss made the first home visit on February 6, 1886, to a poor immigrant living in Boston's West End. In the first year alone, Hodgkiss, along with another nurse, provided 7,128 home health visits to 707 patients; a remarkable schedule by today's standards. Today, the VNAB provides nearly 250,000 home visits to over 13,382 patients annually.

Home Healthcare helps keep families together and allows parents and grandparents to remain outside of institutions. It brings "at risk" babies home with safety and security and provides care for the chronically ill in a comfortable atmosphere, surrounded by loved ones. Thanks to homecare, physically challenged people can function in their community with the support of neighbors and friends.

Studies have shown that patient's recover more quickly at home, that they live longer, and that they enjoy life with home care support. Substantial cost savings are achieved when home health care is used to prevent or shorten hospital stays or to provide long term care as an alternative to nursing home placement.



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