

Dorchester woman continues to live independently thanks to remote patient monitoring program

by Wendy Spence
THE SIGNPOST

A local resident is very grateful for the continuation of a program that has made it possible for her to keep living in her own home. "I'm very impressed with them," says Nancy Huyck, about the Community Paramedicine Remote Patient Monitoring Program. The Dorchester woman was part of the pilot project and was able to rejoin once the program became available again.

Huyck is doing well getting around and volunteering at all of the Dorchester Dolphins hockey team's home games at the FlightExec Centre. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) only gets in touch with her if they see a problem with the vital statistics she reports on a daily basis with the digital equipment that has been provided: pulse, blood pressure and oxygen level. There is a secure

portal that gives patients and their loved ones up-to-date results.

Huyck did have one incident. The 71-year-old's blood pressure reading was low. The EMS came

out and told her to elevate her feet on a pillow, which she did. An hour later they called back to tell her that it had improved.

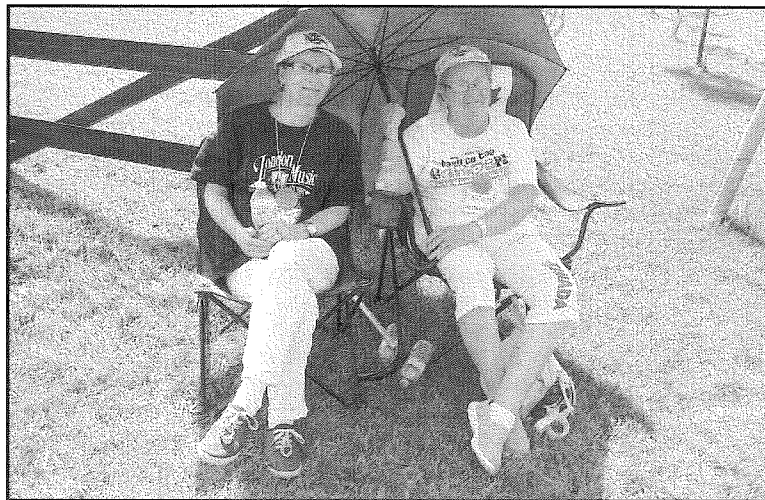
Huyck, who has congestive

obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), first joined the program in May. It is sponsored by the South Central Community Development Corporation, which works with Middlesex-London EMS locally to provide remote patient monitoring. Vital statistics are sent digitally to the EMS, so paramedics can intervene proactively before minor issues become more serious.

Huyck is able to manage her condition and avoid hospital visits. She has learned about some preventative measures to take to

avoid complications.

"Canadians want to stay in their home as long as possible and digital health initiatives such as the Community Paramedicine Remote Patient Monitoring Program, can help enable that," said Shelagh Maloney, vice-president, Canada Health Infoway. "In addition to a high satisfaction rate from users, remote patient monitoring has led to decreased 911 calls and reduced hospitalization and ER visits." Find out more at futurehealthservices.ca.



supplied photo

Nancy Huyck (right) and her daughter Cheryl Ford take a break from their volunteering duties during the Back to the Garden music festival at the Jones' farm in Dorchester in August.