

LIFEBEAT CARDIAC CARE

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PHYSICIANS



SPECIALIZED HOME-BASED HOSPICE CARE FOCUSED ON THE NEEDS OF CARDIAC PATIENTS

CareFirst is a not-for-profit community-based program providing residents of Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben counties of New York State with complete hospice, palliative care, and grief services.

formerly Southern Tier Hospice and Palliative Care



WHAT IS THE CAREFIRST LIFEBEAT PROGRAM?

The CareFirst's LifeBeat program provides comprehensive medical care and support services for advanced cardiac patients in their own homes.

HOW CAN MY PATIENT BENEFIT FROM LIFEBEAT?

The goal of the CareFirst LifeBeat program is to **reduce unnecessary hospital visits**, maximize patient function, manage distressing symptoms, support families, and **enable patients with advanced heart disease to remain in their homes** while receiving quality care, including at the end of life.

If you have a patient with NYHA Class IV/Stage D heart failure with maximized therapies or NYHA Class III/Stage C with co-morbidities, he or she may be eligible to join CareFirst's LifeBeat program.

WHAT SERVICES CAN MY PATIENT RECEIVE?

- Home-based case management including nursing, social work, spiritual care, personal care, medical equipment, and medication coverage

- 24-hour on-call system that brings skilled care to the home in times of crises or change
- Symptom management via medical treatments and/or patient monitoring
- Continuation of primary physician control over patient care plan
- Intensive patient and caregiver education for disease management, including daily weights, medication, diet compliance, and proactive planning for crises
- Coverage of short-term hospital stays necessary for symptom control
- The CareFirst LifeBeat program also helps the patient identify issues to be addressed at each doctor appointment, maximizing each visit

To learn more about how the CareFirst LifeBeat program can help your patient, please call us at 607.962.3100.

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