
Home Health Offers New Clotting Service

Somerset Hospital's Home Health is now offering point of care blood clotting/coagulation monitoring for its home care patients. It's being made possible as a result of the purchase of the CoaguChek XS Meter developed by Roche Diagnostics.

The point of care system consists of a finger stick done by the Somerset Hospital Home Health nurses. Through a virtually pain free method coagulation values are measured within one minute with a drop of capillary blood from the finger tip.

Results can be used immediately to adjust the patient's therapy in the comfort of their home. Basically, the home health nurse will call the Somerset Hospital Coumadin Clinic to report the results. The clinic, then gives the nurse the Coumadin dose to be taken by the patient until the next test. The nurse will then verify with the patient the correct medication dosage prior to leaving the home.

According to Sue Strohm of Somerset Hospital Home Health, "The whole procedure is less painful and safer for the patient while it reduces the time involved in the whole testing procedure."



The system virtually eliminates the need for venous blood sampling and helps patients maintain their therapeutic range which should eventually lead to less complications.

Photo: Somerset Hospital Home Health Nurse Lori Schmucker is shown demonstrating one of the agency's new coagulation monitoring meters being utilized for home care patients.
