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CONTACT:

Mike Fierro
Dynamed Solutions, LLC
443-661-1403 (phone)
443-661-1408 (fax)
mfierro@dynamedsolutions.com
www.seniortehealth.com

Dynamed Solutions Announces TeleHealth for Seniors

Elkridge, MD, March 14, 2008 – Dynamed Solutions today introduced a service aimed at helping caregivers provide support for independently living senior citizens. The service, marketed as Senior TeleHealth, provides telephonic encounters with seniors on behalf of their caregivers. In addition to a comprehensive Home Assessment that starts all of the programs, offerings are available that focus on Activities of Daily Living, Medication Compliance, and Dealing with Health Challenges. The service involves having an Engagement Specialist call the senior on a regularly scheduled basis to conduct surveys aimed at collecting information that is then passed on to the caregiver. This allows the caregiver, who is often a family member living remotely, to stay on top of current issues without the expense of traditional in-home care.

“The more we read about the lengths people were going to in trying to care for their parents from afar, the more we thought there had to be a better option,” says Mike Fierro, a founder and principal of Dynamed Solutions. “This is a challenge faced by millions of Americans on a daily basis – how to ensure the seniors in their lives are doing well while struggling to take care of their own family. Perhaps the most effective approach available to date was to hire a home health aide or nurse to visit on a regular basis, but the truth is that most Americans can’t afford a service like that. On the other end of the spectrum are medical or safety alert systems – these products work well when there’s an emergency, but don’t offer much in the way of preventative maintenance to keep the caregiver informed of how things are going. Nothing we saw on the market hit in that middle ground, balancing affordability and actionable information while providing peace of mind.”

The service, which was launched this week, is a straightforward and transparent program. Once a caregiver has enrolled a senior on the website (www.seniortehealth.com), an Engagement Specialist conducts an initial Home Assessment. The caregiver then receives a detailed report showing all the questions that were asked in the Home Assessment and how the answers provided by the senior may indicate safety issues in the home that could be improved. Often caregivers are surprised to learn that changing simple things can make a big difference in the ongoing health and safety of a senior. For example, removing throw rugs in hallways can greatly reduce the odds of a senior falling in the home.

The three programs available focus on different aspects of the senior’s health and safety that may be especially important to the caregiver. They are Activities of Daily Living, Medication Compliance, and Dealing with Health Challenges.

The first of these, Activities of Daily Living, gathers information and provides feedback on things the senior needs to do everyday, such as eating, sleeping, shopping, getting around the house and using appliances. The focus of this program is to ensure that independent living is able to continue without posing undue risks to the senior.

Seniors' medication regimens are often complex, involving multiple medications with complex dosing instructions. The Medication Compliance program seeks to ensure that seniors are taking medications as prescribed and that they have adequate supplies of all medicines. In addition, seniors are asked whether they have started, or more importantly, stopped any medications recently, and if they have noticed any side effects. Medication mismanagement is the leading cause of emergency room visits and hospitalizations for seniors and one of the main reasons for seniors to lose their ability to live independently. By receiving regular, structured feedback on medication use, caregivers can quickly respond to issues that arise before they become serious problems.

Finally, the Dealing with Health Challenges program offers a chance to catch new or worsening symptoms before they become problematic. In addition to reviewing new information or follow-up items from doctor's visits, the caregiver is advised of whether or not the senior has adequate transportation needs for medical appointments as well as ensuring they receive timely information regarding new physician instructions the senior may have received.

All three programs are available individually or grouped together in a single package. Call services can be arranged on a schedule convenient to the senior and a frequency adequate to meet the caregiver's information needs, ranging from a daily to a monthly calling basis.

About Dynamed Solutions, LLC – Dynamed Solutions was founded in 2007 as a technology services company for the healthcare industry. In addition to providing resources for systems integration and application development, Dynamed has focused significantly on the challenge of electronic health records and how they are shared amongst physicians, hospitals, labs, and other healthcare participants. In addition to making Senior TeleHealth available to consumers, Dynamed offers a number of telehealth solutions for health plans, hospitals and physicians. Information on Dynamed's non-consumer offerings can be found at www.dynamedsolutions.com.

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