

# MyHomeReach™ by HealthComms

- Security
- Connectivity
- Peace of mind



- Centralised View/Admin
- Real-time & longitudinal data
- Reduced hospitalization
- Transparency of care
- Flexibility

- Efficiency
- Ease of Use
- Stronger links within care community



Connecting

caring

Communities

KEEPING PEOPLE CONNECTED TO PEOPLE THAT CARE

# HealthComms

MyHomeReach

October, 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

## Caring & Absenteeism

Torn between family obligations and duties at work, there is rarely a balance for these over-taxed caregivers.

For the company's bottom line, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the impact is substantial: American businesses lose an average of 2.8 million work days each year due to unplanned absences; Those absences cost employers nearly \$74 billion; Work day interruptions due to care giving of adults cost employers around \$3 billion; Absenteeism due to care giving costs employers nearly \$5 million.

**Unplanned Absences and the Sandwich Generation** – An estimated 20 percent of Americans are absent from work to take care of other family members. These workers are known as the “sandwich generation” as they are wedged between taking care of younger children and older adults. Forty four million Americans are caring for an elderly relative with 60 percent working either part or full time. The caregiving employee provides ADL relief as feeding, dressing, toileting, bathing and minor medical assistance. The cost of both full- and part-time workers forced into the caregiver role costing employer's \$7 billion for their absenteeism. Eleven percent of these workers will take some type of leave of absence or FMLA while 10 percent will eventually quit their jobs to become a full-time caregiver. These figures are furnished by the national Alliance for Care Giving and AARP.

### Caring & Absenteeism

Torn between family obligations and duties at work, there is rarely a balance for these over-taxed caregivers. According to a study by the National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP, 11 percent of these workers will take a leave of absence and 10 percent ultimately will quit their jobs.

### MyHomeReach in Australia

New customers coming on board

### New Partners coming on board.



CHARTACARES

### Healthcomms at Innovations + Investments in Healthcare Summit in Munich

### What's new with our products?

Azure blobs  
Helping hands 'TASKS'

**The Cost of Presenteeism.** Work lost productivity is known as presenteeism. Presenteeism means people are at work but not able to perform at 100 percent. So this worker is present but suffering from mental and physical health issues, job stress and family illness or related problems. In addition workers may come into work while having flu symptoms, back issues or other medical problems and attempt to work through the condition rather than taking a sick day. This worker is often distracted from work tasks. Off task workers cost the work force roughly \$250 billion a year or an estimated \$2000 per employee.

**Caregiver Stress** as a Secondary Risk Factor – Care Giving and the stress related to Care Giving can promote other serious health issues. Research has shown that these other health problems can include heart disease, arthritis, cancer and diabetes. There is also a strong affective component to Care Giving that is shown to exacerbate levels of depression and anxiety.

The good news is that there are some relatively simple steps companies can take to make life better for employees who have caregiving responsibilities.

So what can employers do to alleviate some of stress and improve work-life balance of employees with senior care responsibilities?

- **Start the Conversation**

It's true that starting workplace conversations about senior care won't be easy, but it's important to create a company culture in which employees are comfortable talking about what's happening in their lives and how it affects their job performance and stress levels.

- **Provide Care-Assistance Benefits**

As awareness around the importance of supporting working family's spreads, providing elder care assistance benefits is becoming increasingly common. According to the Family and Work Institute's 2014 National Study of Employers, nearly half of employers provide elder care resources and referral benefits.

- **Be informed, and Act as a Resource for Your Employees**

Employees with senior care responsibilities often don't think about senior care until the situation "hits home" for them, which means many are learning as they go. By understanding their needs and arming your employees with information, you can take away a layer of stress. And the more low-emotion responsibilities you can take off of the plate through senior care toolkits or resource and referral benefits, the more you help employees focus on work when they're at work instead of engaging in productivity-killing multi-tasking.

*Caring for Aging Parents Affects Worker Absenteeism and Productivity*

*Caring for Aging Parents Affects Worker Absenteeism and Productivity*

*Controlling the Cost and Impact of Absenteeism*

## How can MyHomeReach Help?

### Corporate Benefit Programs

Offer your associates a corporate benefit that will not only benefit them but your company. Help your associates care for their families. Reduce absenteeism. Reduce stressful care giving incidents and distractions. MyHomeReach™ enables your employees to ensure their loved ones are safe and secure, supported by a community-network of care providers while living independently.

Contact us today for a demonstration of MyHomeReach at [enquiries@healthcomms.com](mailto:enquiries@healthcomms.com), for more information visit our website <http://www.healthcomms.com>

## Activities in Australia

HealthComms are demonstrating how MyHomeReach can build on current activities enhancing the ability of organizations in providing care for those living independently.

### New customers spinning up.



**Integratedliving Australia Ltd** is an innovative, not-for-profit community business delivering a broad range of quality community care services. Integratedliving operates across regional and rural New South Wales, Queensland, and recently expanded into Victoria in 2013 along with ACT and Tasmania early in 2014.

Integratedliving has been providing services to the frail, older people, younger people with a disability and their carers for over 15 years.

**Mercy Health Home & Community Care** offers care services so people can remain living safely and independently at home.

We care for older people, people with a disability and people recovering from illness or surgery. Our holistic approach means support is also offered to carers. Responding to diverse needs, we offer a range of services including personal care, domestic assistance, home nursing, shopping and transport, socializing and companionship, overnight care, respite care and 24 hour Live-in care.



## New Partners coming on board.



We are delighted to announce that we will be working with ChartaCares (<http://www.chartacares.com>). ChartaCares of ForMedical Cloud services, a comprehensive cloud based platform of IT services developed specifically for use by home health care service organizations. ForMedical Cloud provides home health care services with a single source solution for the provisioning and use of foundational IT technologies

necessary to operate a high quality and competitively positioned home health care services business in an age defined by HIPAA security and privacy compliance, electronic health records, and the digital demands of mobile health care professionals. ForMedical Cloud is offered as a scalable service which means that home health care businesses can choose the specific IT service(s) they need based on their size and pay only for what they use. The foundational IT services being offered include: secure e-mail, secure texting, encrypted electronic healthcare records, 'smart paper' forms and tablet-based mobile forms processing, secure mobile device management, expert automated risk assessment profiles, secure printing, electronic visit verification, collaborative electronic workflows, PC back-up, email archiving, e-mail defense systems, intrusion defense systems, and document-driven task management.

## Healthcomms at Innovations + Investments in Healthcare Summit in Munich

The 4th Innovations + Investments in Healthcare Summit was held in Munich on September 18th at the Municon Conference center. Innovations + Investments in Healthcare Summit is specialized in linking healthcare innovations to investments. The attendees ranged from C-Level executives to founders of the most exciting healthcare startups. The IIHC Summit is creating a very valuable cross European innovation ecosystem connecting established champions to new contenders.



### Key Agenda topics included

- Improved Health Outcomes – what can data scientists teach us about managing care?
- Corporate Venturing in Healthcare – how should big players invest for innovation? Incubators? Partnering? M&A? Design to grow?
- Legal framework for virtual physician consultation in Europe
- Healthcare Mega Trends – what will be best practice in 5 years?

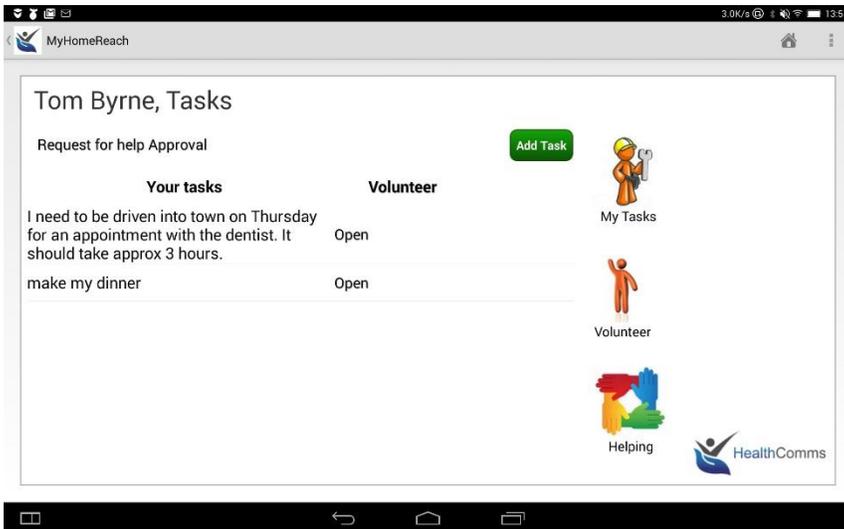
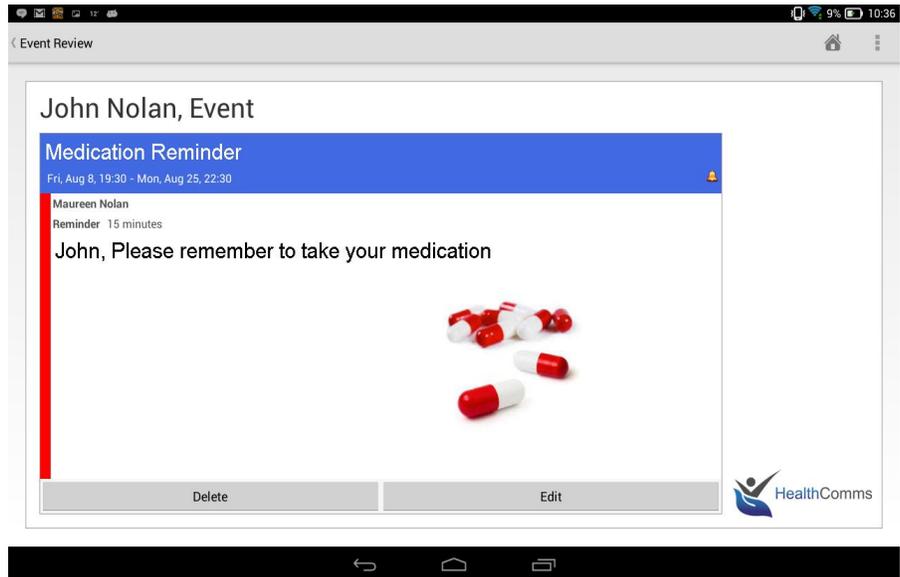


Healthcomms were selected via the GET Funded program as one of seven 7 eHealth SMEs presenting their solutions and investment plans in front of a room full of active digital health investors. It proved to be a great opportunity for Healthcomms to show off our talent and technology to investors, the press and all other conference attendees.

## What's new with our Products?

In Q4 2015 HealthComms will be rolling out some great additions to MyHomeReach.

To fortify the effectiveness of our reminders we will not only provide textual and verbal reminders users will now also see a picture of the medication or icon relevant to the reminder. To achieve this we will be making use of Microsoft Azure blob storage. (Azure BLOB storage service can be used to store and retrieve Binary Large Objects (BLOBs), or what are more commonly known as files.) Use of Azure BLOB will now also allow us to store documents relevant to the care of an individual such as care plans and contract information.



Along with BLOB objects available now is **'TASKS'** providing communities the ability to coordinate the efforts of adhoc volunteers. Use of tasks is confined to a secure community. Tasks can be posted by users and members can volunteer to complete the task after being accepted by the originator. Volunteer hours can also be reported on. More to come on this exciting new capability.