

Pain management at home

Palliative physician connects virtually to help manage patient's pain with nurse present



William has now had two successful video visits with Dr. Ramos since being discharged. His daughter is very happy to have been included in this process with her mom and dad.



Today however, when William wakes up, his pain in his back is much more severe than usual. His wife calls Dr. Ramos's office to inquire about pain management options from home. She has a Symptom Relief Kit (which was previously ordered to help address emergencies in the home) but is not comfortable giving William these medications. She also wonders if she should take William to the nearest emergency department which is 90 km away.



Dr. Ramos's office arranges for the homecare nurse assigned to William to call him and go into the house as soon as possible to see him.



At 3 p.m., the homecare nurse arrives and sends Dr. Ramos (who is currently at the office) a video visit link from the laptop. The two of them connect via video link to assess William together virtually.



Dr. Ramos gives the nurse new pain medication orders and William's pain is under control by 5 p.m. – avoiding obvious discomfort and an unnecessary trip to the emergency department.