

RALEIGH/DURHAM

Medical treatment like in the hospital, from home

Program allows patients to receive medical care at home.

by GUSTAVO CASTRO

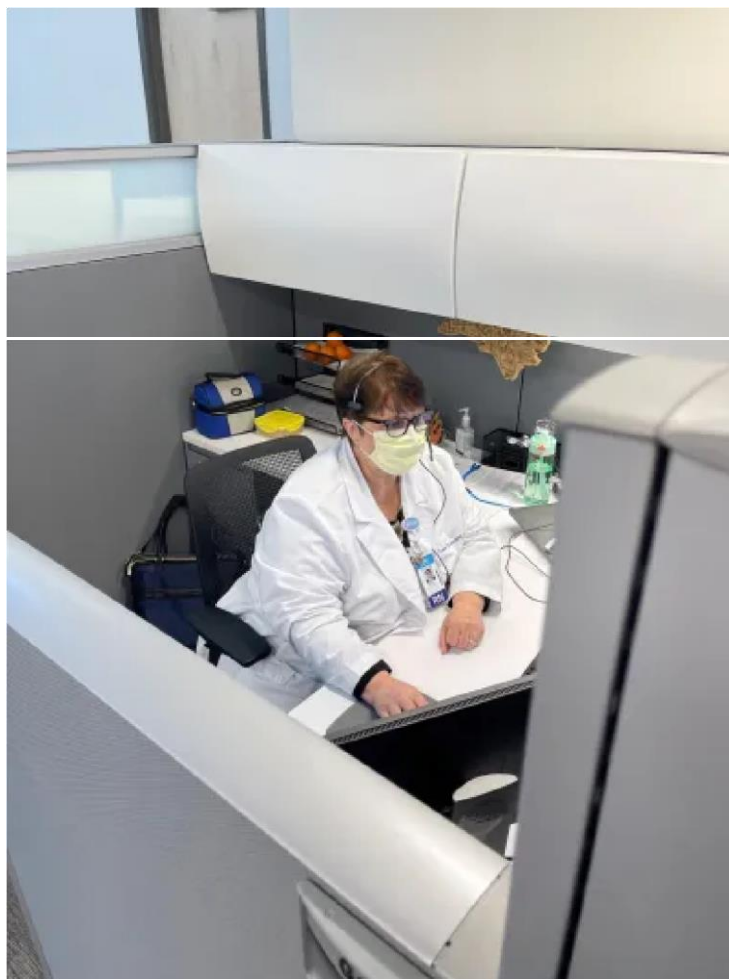


Raleigh- Within three months of nursing her newborn, Dilcia Díaz developed mastitis, a painful infection of the breast tissue. The fever was so high that she

had to go to the emergency room, and from there to the hospital for treatment.

After a day, the Honduran woman returned home to Raleigh, thanks to doctors offering her UNC Health's Advanced Home Care program. From home, she was given the same hospitable care.

Díaz remembers that in January, after a week of enduring chest pain, he developed a fever and couldn't take it anymore. His chest was very hard and he could not breastfeed his baby. She went to UNC Urgent Care in Raleigh and from there she was sent to UNC Rex Hospital.



"The most important thing about the program was that I was able to be at home, with my children and my husband," the mother of five children, four of whom live with her and her husband, told Qué Pasa. This motivated her to accept the UNC Health program and be able to continue looking after her family.

Home Treatment

To receive the treatment, hospital staff installed a telephone, internet and a computer in Dilcia's home to communicate with her doctor any time she needed it.

"If I had questions I would touch the screen and the doctor was there, and for emergencies I had a watch on my wrist all the time."

For Dilcia's treatment at home, a small hospital was set up in her room with everything she needed: gloves, syringes, antibiotics, etc.

"And the best thing, next to your family, your children, in the hospital you feel sad, you think of them; you get home and your recovery is faster, it's fantastic".

Díaz says that every morning a doctor came to apply the antibiotic, examined her, checked her heart and blood pressure. Another one came at night to do the same treatment; They brought medicine to his house.

"They took care of everything, I did nothing, and in a week I was fine. I recommend the program."

Home Care

UNC Health's Advanced Home Care program launched on August 31, 2021, bringing high-quality, hospital-level care to patients in the comfort and convenience of their own homes.

“The program provides hospital-level services at home to patients who would otherwise require hospitalization for serious, chronic conditions such as heart failure and COPD (lung diseases such as emphysema and bronchitis), infections such as pneumonia and cellulitis, and post-surgical hospitalizations, as well as than by COVID19 ”, detailed a statement provided by UNC Health.

Under the program, UNC Health doctors and nurses at a medical command center monitor patients in their homes 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Patients have access to hospital-level medical services ranging from intravenous therapies, oxygen treatment, and laboratory tests. X-rays and ultrasounds are also offered, without having to leave their homes.

The program is available to patients of UNC Medical Center, UNC Hospitals Hillsborough Campus, UNC Rex, and UNC Health Rex Holly Springs in the triangle area.

The health system plans to gradually expand the program to patients served at its 10 other hospitals in North Carolina and is evaluating opportunities to offer the service in partnership with other hospitals in the state.

A spokeswoman for UNC Health explained that the medical center works with different insurance companies and the cost is similar to

staying in the hospital. Regarding an immigration status, the spokeswoman pointed out that "UNC Health does not consider immigration status to provide care to its patients." This program is available to anyone who meets the other eligibility criteria.