

QuikRead go Brings Flexibility to Home Care



Hartola home care, Finland

Nurse Mirja Kalliosaari (Bachelor's and Master's Degree) works at home care in Hartola, which belongs to Päijät-Häme Wellness Association. Päijät-Häme is a region in Southern Finland. The district is large and distances to customers' homes can

be long. Winter brings challenges to commuting between customers and work is often hectic. Approximately 25% of the population is over 75 years old. Alcohol overuse among the elderly brings challenges to home care employees' daily work.

In Hartola home care, there are 20 people working in two teams. One team consists of a nurse who is in charge of the care work, practical nurses, home carers and home help personnel. The team members ensure that the customers get proper medication and vaccinations, but they also take care of shopping for food, personal hygiene of the customer, and other care-related matters. One team is responsible for approximately 30 customers and emergency phone calls from the area are directed to the home care unit.

In addition to home care in Hartola, there is a facility called Hartolan kotisalo which provides service housing and activities for 60 persons.

QuikRead go in Hartola home care

QuikRead go instrument, QuikRead go CRP, and QuikRead go CRP+Hb have been in use in Hartola home care since January 2018. The nurses carry the instrument to the customers' homes and the instrument is also used in the Hartolan kotisalo service housing.

Doctor's consultation hours in Hartola Health Center are only available during weekdays. The laboratory is open three days a week. Patients who need acute care are directed to Päijät-Häme

Central Hospital, which is located about 100 km from Hartola. Therefore, it is very important that the home care evaluates the condition of the customer to assess the level of care needed.

Kalliosaari thinks that the QuikRead go instrument is easy to transport and the fast CRP result supports her decision-making. A reliable CRP result on-site is especially important in situations during the weekend where she has to decide if the customer can stay at home and wait until Monday for treatment.

Kalliosaari tells that taking the QuikRead go instrument to the customer's home has been crucial in situations where she has estimated that whether an ambulance is needed or not. The immediate arrival of an ambulance and patient transportation to hospital are not always self-evident in the sparsely populated area. Getting transportation arranged requires clear evidence of the need for hospital care. Elevated CRP result supports the care taking personnel's decision of further action when an infection is suspected. In one case on a Friday, Kalliosaari was visiting a customer and she measured a CRP value of 60 mg/l. The result supported her decision to call an ambulance and the customer was transported to the hospital. Without the immediate CRP result, the customer would have had to wait for the next weekday for a doctor's appointment and a referral to the laboratory. Therefore, the treatment could have been delayed by at least three days.

In another case, the reason for the visit was treatment of infected nail fold. Kalliosaari performed a QuikRead go CRP+Hb test and the result showed low hemoglobin value. Kalliosaari then examined the customer's patient records and realized that there were undrawn blood samples, which had been ordered due to previously defined low hemoglobin. In this case, QuikRead go CRP+ Hb test ensured the appropriately finished patient care.

The QuikRead go instrument brings flexibility to home care procedures since CRP measured at point-of-care supports treatment decisions. The possibility of reliable point-of-care testing with the easily transportable QuikRead go instrument is extremely useful and important in a sparsely inhabited region where hospital and laboratory services are limited.



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