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Home and Community Care Highlights Volume 5, Number 2: May 2006

Home and Community Care Highlights responds to decision-makers' needs for timely and relevant evidence by providing accessible synopses of recent research pertaining to the financing, delivery, and organization of home and community-based health care activities.

Synopses are provided in two formats. Headlines & Conclusions crystallize the take-home messages of the research in a few sentences. Thumbnail Summaries condense the background, methods, findings, and conclusions of the research into quick-to-use, single-page overviews that include reference information.

This digest is produced quarterly at the University of Toronto by the CHSRF/CIHR Health Services Chair in Health Care Settings and Canadians and remains the property of the Chair.

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This issue focuses on three broad topic areas: quality and efficiency in long-term care provision, in both home and institutional settings; the effects of end-of-life care on care recipients, family members, and volunteers; and finally, exploring alternative settings and programs for low-intensity elder care. Specifically, the following topics are addressed:

- 1. Quality control of equipment in home mechanical ventilation: a European survey
- 2. Quality management activities improve clinical outcomes in nursing homes
- 3. Remote monitoring works, but technical issues need to be solved
- 4. Hospice care improves the quality of end-of-life care
- 5. The positive impact of hospice care on the surviving partner
- 6. Volunteers generate positive benefits for end-of-life care
- 7. Intensive homecare program is effective but more expensive than inpatient care
- 8. Evaluating a community-based health promotion program for seniors
- 9. Assisted living facilities: how is care provided to residents?