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Home and Community Care Highlights Volume 2, Number 4: December 2003

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: family and non-kin care-giving, impact of models of care on abuse and neglect of elders, financial performance in nursing homes, home technology innovation, and home care protocols for total joint replacement, IV antibiotic therapy and the treatment of febrile neutropenia. The following topics are addressed:

- 1. Family caregivers experience lower labour force participation and lower wage rates.
- 2. Understanding non-kin caregiving relationships.
- 3. Home care clients who hire their own workers are at no higher risk of abuse and neglect than those who use agency workers
- 4. Nursing homes producing higher quality of care have better financial performance
- 5. A checklist for the development of information technology applications in the home
- 6. Increased pre-operative and fewer post-operative home visits yield similar outcomes for total joint replacement patients than traditional home care
- 7. IV antibiotic therapy at home works and costs less
- 8. Home-based treatment of children with chemotherapy induced febrile neutropenia is more economical than hospital-based treatment