

# Home emergency response system now statewide

Providence Home Health Care is now offering Lifeline, a personal emergency response system, statewide. Any time, night or day, Lifeline subscribers can press a personal help button that automatically dials a response Center. If assistance is needed, the center then calls for appropriate help.

Lifeline is ideal for individuals who are elderly, disabled, recovering from surgery or prone to seizures or accidents. It is also useful to individuals who live alone and are healthy and active, but who want an extra measure of security.

"Until now we could only offer our services in the Anchorage area because our equipment could only dial seven-digit

numbers," said Kim Everett, Lifeline program coordinator for Providence Home Health Care. "We now are using state-of-the-art equipment that can be used by anyone who has phone service, anywhere within the state of Alaska."

Lifeline services, offered through other hospital-based providers, are already available in Kenai/Soldotna, Fairbanks, Ketchikan and Homer. Everett says Providence Health System will refer calls it gets from those areas to the existing providers and will not attempt to compete in those markets.

Across the U.S., more than 300,000 people subscribe to Lifeline services for a variety of reasons, including safety, in-

dependence and peace of mind. Subscribers to Providence Home Health Care's Lifeline program can select from three different types of Lifeline units with varying features. They fill out a medical history and give a list of responders. Responders are people who can come to their as quickly in case of an emergency, such as a next door neighbor or a relative who lives close by. When a subscriber pushes their personal help button, it automatically dials the Lifeline Response Center. A professional on duty at the center receives the "help needed" signal and coordinates dispatching a responder, if needed. If it's an emergency, for instance, the Response Center may call an ambulance or the police. If the Response Center can't reach the subscriber, he begins contacting the list of responders.

Providence Lifeline charges a one-time installation fee of \$40 and bills for a monthly subscriber fee of from \$35 to \$40.

Providence also offers a sliding fee scale for people on limited incomes. The service is available to people who are deaf or who can't speak and communicate via TDD. Interpreters also are available in over 140 different languages through the AT&T Language Line.

For more information on Providence Home Health Care's Lifeline personal emergency response services, or to sign-up, call (907) 273-0554.

The Sisters of Providence Health System owns and operates a comprehensive array of mostly health related services in California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska. The Alaska Service Area includes Providence Alaska Medical Center, Providence Extended Care Center (formerly Our Lady of Compassion Care Center), Providence Home Health Care/Lifeline, Mary Conrad Center and Providence Horizon House, an assisted living community.