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Interim Healthcare of the Upstate Nurse Is Credited with Saving Patient's Life

Linda Averre used Interim's telehealth monitoring system for offsite diagnosis and quick response.

GREENVILLE, S.C. — Linda Averre, a registered nurse with Interim HealthCare of the Upstate, has been credited with helping to save a patient's life by quickly and accurately assessing a serious medical condition reported through Interim's telehealth monitoring system. The innovative technology of telehealth allows a clinician to monitor the patient remotely with the use of the telemonitor. It is especially purposeful for rural and suburban locations such as Upstate, SC, where healthcare resources often are spread out across long distances.

Interim's patients desire to stay in the comfort of their homes while maintaining access to quality healthcare. The use of telehealth monitoring provides a patient with peace of mind, knowing their health condition is being monitored regularly. When a certain change occurs in a patient's condition, the technology is designed to identify the issue and notify an Interim Cardiac RN who will contact the patient and the patient's physician if necessary. Early identification of life threatening symptoms through telehealth-monitoring prevents hospitalizations and lowers readmission rates. Nationally, telehealth monitoring systems reduce emergency room visits by nearly 15 percent and telemedicine is projected to reach more than 7 million users in 2018, according to iSalus Health Care.

During one of Averre's routine night shifts in the telehealth 'hub,' she received information through the telehealth system that a patient was exhibiting signs of hypoxia, a condition where the body isn't getting enough oxygen. Averre contacted EMS while working remotely to coach the patient until responders arrived. The patient didn't have any oxygen in the house, and Averre directed her through stabilization and breathing exercises until EMS arrived.

The patient was transported to the hospital and had a heart attack within an hour of arriving. The doctor told Averre the patient may not have survived the heart attack if the patient had been home alone and without the telehealth-monitoring when it occurred. Because of Averre's quick thinking and treatment of the symptoms, the patient recovered and returned home a few weeks later.

Charyl Schroeder, CEO of Interim HealthCare of the Upstate, added: "Our employees are the reason Interim is successful, and stories like this are evidence of that. We're very fortunate to work with people like Linda who love what they do and truly care for the patients they serve. This situation had a positive outcome because of Linda's quick thinking and patient dedication."

[Interim HealthCare of the Upstate](http://www.interimcares.com) is a locally owned and operated home health and hospice services provider. Families interested in exploring in-home care options should reach out to Interim Healthcare by calling (800) 439-4590 or visiting the company's website: <http://www.interimcares.com>.

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About Interim Healthcare

[Interim HealthCare](#) has delivered high quality, in-home healthcare to the communities of Upstate South Carolina since 1979 with the mission of “honoring God through the enrichment of human life.” Interim Healthcare is the recipient of the top industry benchmark, 5-stars, denoting in-home healthcare provided at the highest quality. The company provides the full continuum of care – telehealth, personal care, skilled care and hospice services – within Greenville, Spartanburg, Cherokee, Pickens, Anderson and Oconee Counties.