

**PIONEERS  
MEMORIAL**  
*Healthcare District*

For immediate release

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**Hospital Contact:**

Kay Day Pricola  
Director of Marketing  
760-351-4499  
Fax-760-351-4635  
[kday@pmhd.org](mailto:kday@pmhd.org)

Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District is pleased to announce a new service focused on the health of our patients after leaving the hospital. We have partnered with Avery Telehealth, a Phoenix, Arizona based company with a proven track record of improving patient health outcomes.

Avery Telehealth will contact patients, subject to their consent, who have been discharged from PMHD with a diagnosis of Congestive Heart Failure (CHF), Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI), Pneumonia (PNA), or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). A nurse with Avery Telehealth will answer any health questions the patient has after getting home from the hospital and determine any critical care issues. Dependent upon the health of the patient, the calls from the nurse can be daily, with critical alerts sent to the primary care provider. The Avery nurse will conduct the home telephone call in a language most appropriate to the patient, English, Spanish, etc. Avery is able to conduct the call in over 140 languages.

Pioneers selected this important after-hospital-care service to assist our patients and their families to better care for themselves once they are home without cost to the patient and/or an insurance company. It is another example of our commitment to provide quality care for our community. The partnership with Avery Telehealth is based on our mutual beliefs which include:

- Healthcare should always put the patient first.
- Healthcare should relieve stress, not cause it.
- Healthy living is contagious.
- Healthcare should be simple and effective.

We see the benefits as improved patient outcomes—that is the patients will be allowed to remain independent in their homes for a longer time. The Telehealth nurse will provide patient education and coaching for those with chronic conditions. This will empower and educate patients and/or their caregivers on how to care for their chronic condition(s) and reduce the need to return to a healthcare facility for acute care.

"Avery Telehealth is excited to partner with Pioneers to provide an extension of the great care patients received while in the hospital and keep them happy, healthy and at home," stated Mark Aspenson, Chief Executive Officer, Avery Telehealth.

"We can not overstate the benefits of this service to our community," stated Katie Alcantra-Santillan President of the PMHD Board of Directors. "To have access to experienced, caring nurses, once you are home, and without cost to the patient or family is an incredible commitment to our community. Each of us on the Board of Directors is proud of the continuing efforts to improve healthcare in Imperial Valley," continued Alcantra-Santillan.