

# CONNECTED CLINICIANS: PATIENT CARE FROM HOSPITAL TO HOME

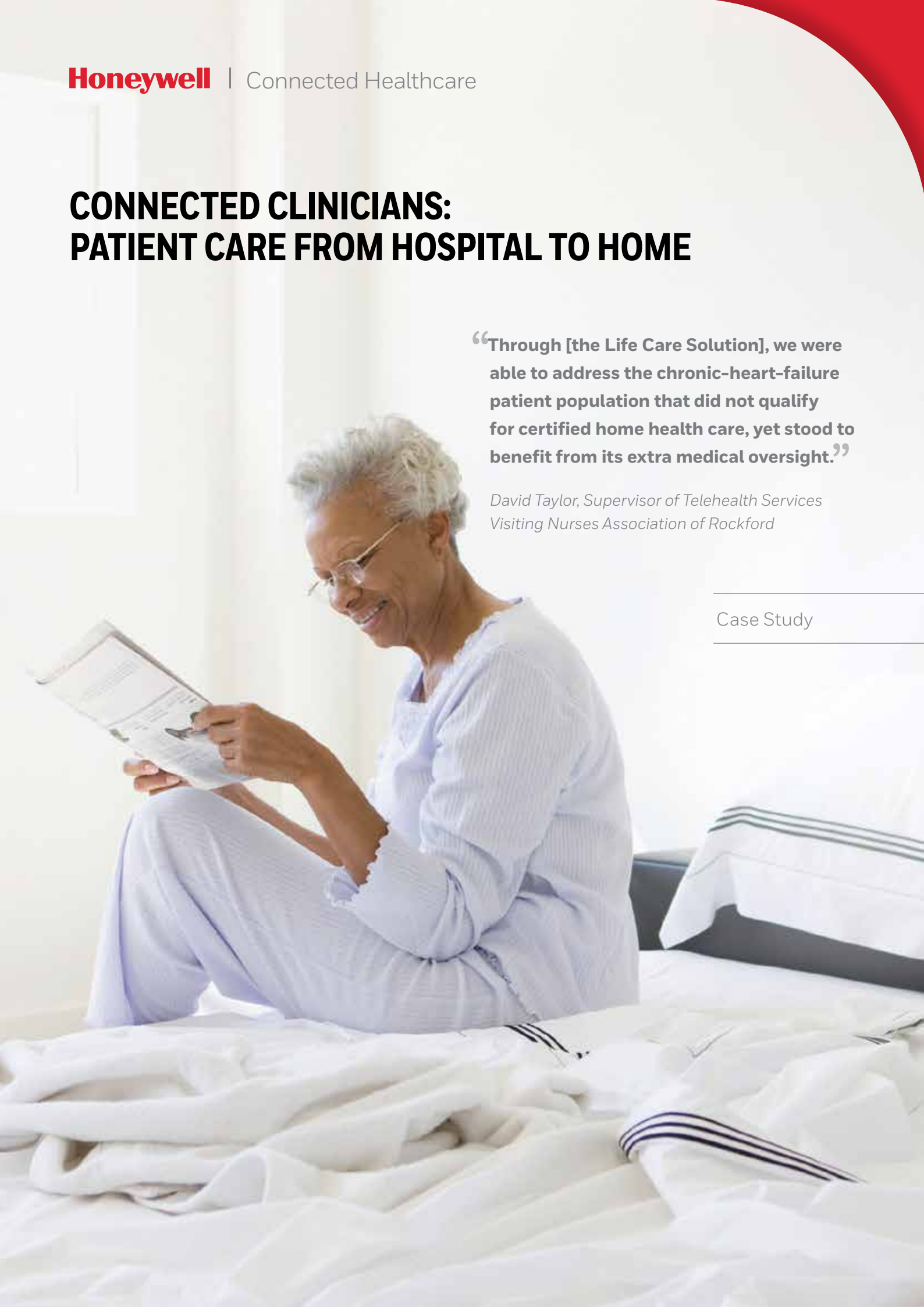
“Through [the Life Care Solution], we were able to address the chronic-heart-failure patient population that did not qualify for certified home health care, yet stood to benefit from its extra medical oversight.”

*David Taylor, Supervisor of Telehealth Services  
Visiting Nurses Association of Rockford*

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Case Study

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**The Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) of Rockford has had great success in keeping hospital readmissions low by monitoring patient health at home with Honeywell's Life Care monitors and LifeStream software. Next, the VNA Rockford team sought a way to reduce readmissions among Medicare patients not qualified for long-term home care.**

### **The Challenge**

Chronic heart failure (CHF) patients are a large portion of hospital readmissions.

Many CHF patients do not qualify for coverage of long-term home care.

Short term monitoring is only 45–90 days after discharge.

Short-term monitoring works well, but many CHF patients are readmitted once it ends.

VNA hoped to show long-term monitoring is cost-effective, even without coverage.

### **The Solution**

The Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) of Rockford is the largest non-profit home-care agency in northern Illinois, and has had excellent results using Life Care remote monitoring to care for patients and reduce hospital readmissions.

However, the VNA felt more could be done: Chronic heart failure (CHF) patients are a big portion of readmissions and benefit greatly from home monitoring. Yet a large subset of CHF patients covered by Medicare do not qualify for long-term monitoring – and hence are “frequent fliers” with high readmission rates.

Working with Rockford Memorial Hospital, the VNA introduced a program to give every cardiology patient a Honeywell Life Care monitor, regardless of coverage. Nurses then determined home-care duration based on each patient's needs.

The solution proved a great success: Honeywell LifeStream software improved the nurses' ability to monitor numerous patients at once, even with custom parameters. The VNA measured highly positive results among participants, and the hospital benefited from a large drop in overall readmissions.

### **The Benefits**

- Highly successful: Readmissions for high-risk CHF patients fell to about 4%.
- Reduced overall readmission rates for the entire hospital from 25% to 17%.
- Life Care solution enables VNA nurses to easily monitor 150+ patients at once.
- LifeStream monitoring software tracks both standard and custom vital signs.
- Home-care duration now determined by patient needs, not Medicare coverage.
- Patients have shown lasting improvements in health and lifestyle, with much gratitude for the greater support and independence.

#### **For more information**

[www.honeywellaidc.com](http://www.honeywellaidc.com)

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