

GoodLife

MAGAZINE

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Dr. Rene Rodriguez
Helping Patients
Live Longer

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A native of El Salvador, Dr. Rene Rodriguez brings WellMed Model of Care to South Side at newly expanded Wooldridge clinic

A lot has changed in the nearly five decades since Dr. Rene Rodriguez began practicing medicine. A native of Guatemala, Dr. Rodriguez has called Corpus Christi home for most of his adult life, working as a primary care physician who specializes in senior care.

One thing that didn't change much during his career was the way the healthcare system promoted an acute, emergent model of care. Patients were more likely to be seen when they were sick or in an emergency, rather than working with their healthcare team on a plan to stay well or manage chronic disease.

For Dr. Rodriguez, that all changed a few years ago when he joined WellMed and helped launch the senior healthcare company's expansion in the Coastal Bend, first as an associate medical director and now as lead physi-

cian at its newly minted South Side clinic, WellMed at Wooldridge at 5846 Wooldridge Road.

"WellMed is a company that was created by doctors, so they are very conscious of the importance of a good evaluation, the importance of good treatment and, of course, we are strong in preventive medicine," said Dr. Rodriguez, a longtime active leader in the Nueces County Medical Society who currently sits on the Executive Board.

"It's all about coordination of care. That way we are committed to give good service to our patients in terms of follow up and solving

problems on the spot."

The Wooldridge clinic is one of 13 WellMed clinics in the Coastal Bend, and among nearly 200 primary care and multi-specialty clinics operated by WellMed in Texas and Florida. WellMed Medical Management also supports nearly 11,000 independent physicians who contract with the healthcare company to support their panels of nearly 300,000 Medicare patients in the WellMed Network.

What makes the more than 25-year-old healthcare company different, Dr. Rodriguez says, is its diligent focus on preventive healthcare. The nationally recognized WellMed Care Model emphasizes prevention and educating patients to be active, informed and engaged in their healthcare, particularly those with chronic disease states such as diabetes, chronic emphysema and heart disease.

With that in mind, WellMed recently invested in the expansion of the Wooldridge clinic. The 10,000 square-foot-plus clinic replaces a 2,500 sf facility at the same address. The state-of-the-art medical center offers senior-friendly features including slip-resistant flooring, no-glare lighting and extra-wide hallways to accommodate special needs of

older patients.

With lab, X-ray, a procedure room and 15 exam rooms, the expanded WellMed at Wooldridge is another example of the healthcare company's commitment to expand access to healthcare in the Coastal Bend. The clinic also has extended hours

WellMed has been recognized for their work in keeping the patients they serve healthy and informed with the latest medical information and resources and as an industry leader in medical risk management, an award-winning highly effective disease management, chronic care programs and healthcare delivery services.

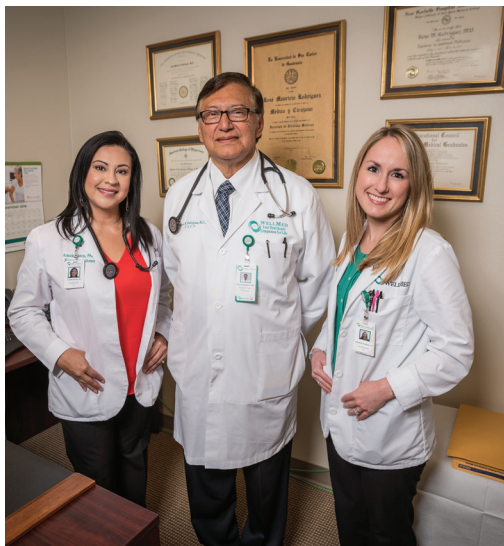


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on Saturday from 8 am to 4 pm.

In addition to serving the roster of patients seen by Wooldridge providers, the clinic also supports WellMed Network patients with contracted physicians or other WellMed clinics. So if a patient in the WellMed Network is sick on Saturday and they don't need emergency medical attention, they can go to the Wooldridge clinic for attention. Or if they have a need for lab or X-ray, the Wooldridge clinic can provide those services.

WellMed health coaches provide coaching for self-management support, focused education for specific disease needs, medication and treatment options, and can identify additional resources to assist in managing disease. Health Coaches focus on patients with chronic diseases such as Diabetes, Congestive Heart Failure, Ischemic Heart Disease and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease/Asthma. The clinic even has a nail technician on staff to help with the unique podiatry needs of diabetic patients.

An independent, federally funded study by the Robert Graham



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WellMed Health Coaches provide coaching for self-management support, focused education for your specific disease needs, medication and treatment options, and identify additional resources to assist in managing your disease such as social workers, diabetic testing supplies and even diabetic shoes.

Center published in 2011 shows that WellMed patients actually live longer compared with the general Medicare population. To learn more about WellMed, visit www.wellmedhealthcare.com or call toll-free at 1-888-781-WELL (9355).