



Outpouring of Generosity is Helping Patients Sleep Better

Thursday, June 2, 2022 | Community Outreach, Sleep Care

A CPAP machine works by keeping airways open, making it easier to breathe. That's why so many with [sleep apnea](#) rely on one of these devices every day. But, due to an ongoing nationwide shortage of new CPAP equipment, it's taking several months for them to get the CPAP machines they need.

To help bridge this gap, Bayhealth's Respiratory Therapy Navigators began collecting donations of gently used, clean, working CPAP and BIPAP machines. So far, they've received more than a dozen donated CPAP machines for their patients. Thompsonville resident William Ratlief is one of the people who benefitted from these generous donations.

"It was really nice that I was able to get the brand-new machine that someone had donated," said Ratlief, who found out he had sleep apnea while he was being treated for another condition at Bayhealth Hospital, Sussex Campus. "That was a life changer for me. I've got more energy, and I use it every night."

Bayhealth's Respiratory Therapy Navigators are still accepting gently used, clean, working CPAP and BIPAP machines, along with unopened supplies, tubing, and masks. They're also working with Bayhealth's Infection Control team to thoroughly sanitize the donated machines before they're given to patients.

If you have any older CPAP/BIPAP equipment that's in good working order that you'd like to donate to help patients in need, please call Bayhealth Respiratory Therapy Navigator Elizabeth Hurley, RRT, AE-C, at 302-430-5902.

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