

Lifecare-Self-Measured Blood Pressure Loaner Program (October 2021):

High blood pressure is one of the most important risk factors for heart disease with over 28% or 81,871 Stark County residents diagnosed with high blood pressure and an estimated 25% more unaware they have high blood pressure. It is important to know your numbers. Lifecare (Lincoln, Ninth Street and Massillon) has collaborated with The American Heart Association (AHA) to improve blood pressure control rates through the creation of a Self-Measured Blood Pressure (SMBP) Loaner Program (launched October 2021). Through this collaboration the AHA and Lifecare have worked together to establish a new process which includes resources on blood pressure control and self-measured blood pressure for patients and providers, access to new automated blood pressure equipment, and follow up with provider (including periodic follow up to report blood pressure readings taken at home to provider) to help manage and improve blood pressure over time.

This process helps monitor blood pressure readings, manage high blood pressure if needed and follows the patient through their health journey. The AHA has worked with Lifecare on other projects in the past including access to Hands Only CPR training and equipment. Over time, both organizations have recognized another need in the community related to hypertension and blood pressure control and expect this initiative to impact roughly 360 people annually.

The SMBP Loaner Program helps to transform the health in our community through access to vital equipment, allowing for a more accurate picture of blood pressure over time. And helps create a deepened partnership between provider and patient to achieve better health outcomes around blood pressure control and management.