



What is Long Term Care/ Residential Care/ Nursing Home?

- These terms refer to the same type of care home.
- Long Term Care homes are often the final home for residents.
- It is not uncommon that residents are in the last year of life when they move in, where we see an increase in frailty and decline over time; this is because most residents, on admission, are living with multiple chronic illnesses, including dementia.
- Long Term Care homes provide comfort care for residents with these progressive conditions, where a cure is not possible and maintaining quality of life is the primary goal.

Long Term Care

*A Message from
Family Doctors*





Will my loved one be sent to the hospital if there is an emergency?

- A resident's family doctor, along with their care staff, can help them and their loved ones to decide what is the right care, in the right place, at the right time.
- Transfer to hospital for a frail resident, can result in long waits in the Emergency Department, deterioration in function and quality of life, distress and confusion and hospital acquired infections.

- The goal of the care team is to make sure that whenever possible, the most appropriate care is available to a resident in their care home, where they can be treated by those who know them.
- We know that residents have the best quality of life when they can pass away peacefully in their home setting, and care teams work with residents and their families to keep them in the care home when possible, where the staff know them best and the environment is familiar.

Will my loved one receive medical treatment in a Long Term care home?

- Your loved will receive treatments for medical problems to reduce uncomfortable symptoms and slow the progress of their disease when possible.
- Services are designed to provide comfort care and maintain quality of life.
- For advanced illnesses, medical intervention is used for symptom management, including pain control, rather than a cure.
- Every resident has a detailed care plan to ensure that all of their needs are met, from health care to spiritual care. It is a holistic approach with ongoing evaluations and adaptations for each resident's unique and evolving needs and challenges.



What if my loved one needs to be seen by a physician?

- Every Long Term Care home has a group of family doctors who visit regularly and provide care to residents.
- Family doctors working in Long Term Care Homes know the needs of residents, the routines of the home, and work together with care staff to ensure that all residents receive high quality care.
- Experienced on-call Family Doctors are available afterhours and on weekends when a resident's regular family doctor may not be available. On-call doctors work with care staff to make sure that residents are comfortable and have access to physician care in the home when they need it, which helps avoid Emergency Department visits.