

Gerryatric Musings

February 2014

The Residence in Mission (TRIM)

This month I want to discuss The Residence in Mission (TRIM). I don't think this is the official name and with a significant donation, someone might have his or her name on the facility.

There will be a respite area and an acquired brain injury unit. The current day program, which is housed at Pleasant View, will continue in a modified form. The facility will absorb the residents currently in Ebenezer and Pleasant View Care Homes. I will communicate later about the physician's responsibilities in this move.

Our goal for the care home is threefold: to be at the forefront of compassionate care for the elderly, to follow best practice for care and to keep medication use to a minimum, particularly for behavioural management.

So what will be expected from the physicians who will be managing the care of residents in the facility? First and foremost, it is expected that the physician will visit the resident in the facility on a regular basis...several times a year depending on the status of the resident. Secondly, it is expected that the physician will regularly review the resident's medication profile to reduce the problems of polypharmacy. Licensing will require reviews twice a year. Thirdly, the physician is expected to attend the yearly care conferences. We recognize that the conferences do not always occur at a convenient time for physician schedules. In order to enable physicians to attend we will offer the option of attending the conference by telephone.

We are in the process of developing a plan of coverage similar to our successful Residential Care Program (RCP) at Ebenezer. We hope to collect a cadre of like-minded physicians who will accept admissions and follow their residents regularly. We envision this being a remunerative addition to their office practice. These meetings will occur in the near future and I would encourage your attendance, if you wish to accept the challenge before us.