

How the healthcare system works

Here you'll gain insight into how the healthcare system in Ontario works.

We've taken a fairly common situation - an elderly Client returning home from the hospital, as an example.

Please keep in mind that while it's useful to have an overview of how the "system" works, your circumstances are unique to you. There is no one size fits all Elder care solution.

For the sake of simplicity we've used the term "Client" to describe the elderly individual who is returning home. The term "Client" has replaced "Patient" at many hospitals.

Also, we have numbered and named the steps in the discharge process. In reality no-one actually refers to the steps as separate steps, they are all one process.

"Having care givers from Eldercare Home Health meant that I could feel confident about returning home from the hospital."

Mrs. Dix, Client

1. Notification of Discharge

Usually the hospital will notify the family that they plan on discharging the Client. Notice can be as short as one day or as long as a week in advance of the discharge date.

2. Needs Assessment

The hospital Discharge Planner (or, in some cases Social Worker) will help the family identify the arrangements that need to be made in order for the discharge to be successful. The Discharge Planner is not responsible for actually making the arrangements, although they will, on occasion, assist in making some of them.

3. Coordination

Generally the family is responsible for coordinating all the various services that may need to be put in place, booking follow up doctors appointments and arranging all the household details - making sure food is in the refrigerator, medications are up to date, old prescriptions have been removed from the household, the household environment is safe (with the limitations that the Client now has), etc.

4. CCAC evaluation

Hospitals have a CCAC coordinator (Community Care Access Center - formerly known as Homecare) on-site who determines the number of hours of care the Client is eligible for under the government program. For more on the CCAC copy and paste this address into a new browser window: www.ccac-ont.ca

5. Transfer home

Call us:
416 482-8292

for a no charge,
no obligation
assessment by a
Registered Nurse



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The family may make arrangements to transfer the Client home themselves or, if required they can book a transfer ambulance through the hospital.

In an ideal world, all services would be in place and all details have been sorted out prior to the Client's arrival home. In reality, this seldom happens. It is not unusual, for example for clients to return home without their medication, without a new prescription, without an exercise schedule, wheelchair etc.

6. CCAC (Homecare) visits

For most people it is comforting to have a consistent caregiver.

Unfortunately, due to a variety of factors, it is very difficult for CCAC contracted agencies to provide consistent caregivers for clients.

(A note here regarding CCAC caregivers. CCAC contracts independent companies to provide caregivers on its behalf. The CCAC itself does not employ caregivers).

Eldercare Home Health is not a CCAC care provider, although we are fortunate to have a very good relationship with many of the CCAC offices. At Eldercare Home Health we are accountable directly to you and there is always someone to talk to if you have any questions regarding any aspect of the care we provide.

7. Ongoing supervision of care and health

There are many considerations for a successful return home. Having the right care in place is key, but there are other factors that can also make a significant difference to the health of clients: maintaining a clean environment, nutritional considerations, mental stimulus, socialization, exercise regimen, monitoring changes in health status, communication between health professionals and family members, coordination of services etc.

9. Awareness of change in condition

It is important that the Client's condition is monitored and that a knowledgeable care professional take appropriate action when health changes occur.

At Eldercare Home Health taking care of the elderly is all we do. We know how the healthcare system works, what services our clients are entitled to receive through CCAC and how to access them. We advocate for the well-being of our clients and coordinate and monitor all delivery of services, from equipment to home blood work, medication administration and personal care.

We take a holistic approach to providing care.

We are usually able to provide consistency in caregivers.

We often are involved with discharging clients home and taking on the responsibilities that would normally fall to the family (we are usually contacted as part of step 2).

Please feel free to contact us if you have any Elder care questions.

For a complimentary assessment by one of our Registered Nurses
please call us at 416 482-8292 We're here to help.

For additional information you can reach us by e-mail at:
info@eldercarehomehealth.com

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Founded by a Registered Nurse, Eldercare Home Health has been providing Registered Nurse Supervised PSW Elder care in Toronto for more than 15 years. No one knows Elder care better than Eldercare Home Health Inc. Click [here](#) to review our Privacy policy (you'll need Adobe Acrobat to view this document).

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Eldercare Home Health Inc: Providing in-home health care - Elder Care (also called Senior Care) for seniors in Toronto, Ontario for more than 15 years. We work with elderly clients who require care. We are experienced in providing care for clients with Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Cardiac disease, Stroke patients, Patients with cognitive impairment (dementia), etc. We also provide palliative care and respite care. All Elder Care services through Eldercare Home Health are supervised by a Registered Nurse. Call 416 482-8292