

Care and Alternate Living Arrangements in the Community

Government-funded home and community care agencies help patients and families get access to services, supported living programs and placement in long-term care homes. A care coordinator works with patients and families to help them make informed choices about care when and where it's needed.

While your care coordinator is employed by a government agency, the care providers who come to your home may work for different care provider companies who are contracted to deliver health care services. You may receive care from several agencies that are centrally managed by your care coordinator. This service is provided at no cost to you.

Types of Supported Living Arrangements in the Community

Home Care

- Home and community services support people of all ages who require care in their home, at school or in the community.
- Seniors and people of all ages with complex medical conditions of all ages can often stay in their own homes if they have support.
- If you qualify, the Ontario government pays for a wide range of services that can be provided in your home and community.

If you don't qualify for government funded services, you may be eligible for community support services that often have a client co-payment. You can also purchase help from private health care provider companies for a fee. Your local government health agency arranges all government-funded services for people living at home. They are responsible for deciding who receives care, the level of care you need and for how long.

Retirement Home

- Retirement homes are privately owned and funded entirely by resident fees and are designed for seniors who do not have significant mobility or medical issues.
- This housing arrangement offers a variety of social, culinary, fitness and support services to all residents, who want to enjoy a relaxing and maintenance-free lifestyle.
- Residences may be shared accommodation, private condos, or cottage-style residences.
- Retirement homes do not receive government funding and residents pay the full cost of accommodation and any care services they purchase.

Some retirement homes may have a doctor, nurse or pharmacist on site to provide health services to residents. People who live in retirement homes can receive care within the retirement home from external providers, including publicly-funded health services.

There is no specific eligibility criteria to live in a retirement home. Seniors who wish to live in a retirement home enter into a tenancy relationship with the home and decide which care services to purchase.

Assisted Living

- Assisted living can be provided in a number of settings, such as retirement homes, seniors' apartments, social housing buildings or in a person's own home.
- Different kinds of supports are available, such as the administration or supervision of medication, or personal care services such as dressing and bathing by trained staff.
- Residents who have periods of temporary difficulties due to illness, injury, or recovery from surgery are allowed to remain in the residence, or to return from a rehabilitation center or hospital, if appropriate services can be provided.
- Assisted living facilities are often a component of a much larger retirement community and can offer opportunities for social interaction and recreational activities.

Respite Care

- Respite care offers informal caregivers a respite, or break, by taking their place for a few hours or days, or longer, so they can have temporary break from the responsibilities of providing care to a family member at home.
- The physical, emotional and financial costs for family caregivers can be overwhelming without support.
- Respite care can be provided at home, during a short stay at a long-term care home or at an adult day program.
- You can apply for respite care through your local government health agency.

Long-Term Care

- Long-term care homes are residential homes that provide ongoing care to patients whose care needs cannot be met in the community due to advancing age, disability or declining health.
- Residents in long-term care homes often need access to on-site 24-hour nursing care, frequent assistance with activities of daily living (i.e. eating, bathing, toileting, etc.) and monitoring for safety or wellbeing.
- To live in a long-term care home, you must:
 - Be age 18 or older
 - Have a valid Ontario Health Insurance Program (OHIP) card
 - Have care needs including:
 - Health care needs that cannot be met with any combination of caregiving in the home or community.
 - Health care needs which can be met in a long-term care home.