

Are You Considering Moving a Person with Dementia Out of a Long Term Care Home Due to COVID-19?

COVID–19 poses a risk for our elderly and family members both in the community and in Long Term Care Homes (LTCH). As a Care Partner, you fear the risks to your family member in the LTCH if COVID-19 cases were to appear there. You may be considering wanting to remove your family member from the LTCH fearing their safety in a COVID-19 outbreak situation. This is a challenging decision that needs to consider many factors. It is important to ask questions, consider facts, and understand what challenges you will be faced with if considering moving the person with dementia back to a home environment. This decision must be made weighing all the pros and cons very carefully. Consider the following:

ASK	Consider	Notes
Will the bed be held and for how long?	<input type="checkbox"/> It is important to talk to the Administrator of the LTCH directly. It cannot be assumed that the bed will be there when it is safe to return	
What is the process for returning to a LTCH bed?	<input type="checkbox"/> If the person with dementia has stayed away from the LTCH and the bed can no longer be held, how soon will they be able to return to a LTCH? <input type="checkbox"/> What is the process? Do you have to reapply for a LTCH bed? <input type="checkbox"/> Will they return to the same LTCH or could it be a different LTCH? <input type="checkbox"/> Will they resist returning to LTCH? <input type="checkbox"/> It is important to speak to the Administrator, and the LHIN Care Coordinators regarding these questions	
What are the risks for contracting	<input type="checkbox"/> If the person is leaving a home with a COVID-19 outbreak, could they have the virus but be symptom free? Is there	

<p>COVID-19 at home?</p>	<p>a risk that they will spread the virus to someone in the home?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> What risks are there for care providers in the home or care providers coming to the home infecting the person with dementia? 	
<p>What are the care needs of the person with dementia?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility – can they walk safely or how will they move around the home? How will they manage stairs, if this is necessary? Are there railings? If they need a wheelchair, can you manage the wheelchair around the home? <input type="checkbox"/> Can you manage their transfers to/from chair, bed, toilet? <input type="checkbox"/> Can you obtain any equipment that they need e.g. hospital bed, commode, bathroom equipment, safety grab bars? <input type="checkbox"/> How much help do they need for self care – dressing, toileting, grooming, bathing? Can you manage this care alone? <input type="checkbox"/> Are they frequently incontinent – can you manage this care? <input type="checkbox"/> Do they have oxygen needs? Can you obtain this for the home and at what cost? <input type="checkbox"/> Do they have difficulties eating or swallowing difficulties? 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Do they have skin care issues? Can you manage their skin care? <input type="checkbox"/> Will the individual sleep through the night? Will your sleep be impacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Can you sustain the care for weeks and maybe months? <input type="checkbox"/> Can you manage at home with the individual with dementia 24 hours per day, 7 days per week? 	
<p>What are the behaviours that the person with dementia has that may be difficult to manage at home?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Is the individual someone who will become agitated, anxious or aggressive? Can you handle this alone? <input type="checkbox"/> Will they wander through the day or at night? <input type="checkbox"/> Will they recognize who you are? <input type="checkbox"/> Will they accept care from you or will they resist care? 	
<p>What supports will you have?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Are there any supports through the Home Care program? This is likely very limited due to the demand with COVID –19 and availability of Personal Support Workers. The LHIN Care Coordinator should be contacted to understand if any supports are available <input type="checkbox"/> What supports do you have in the home – other family members? Are these family members willing or able to provide support? Will they isolate in the home? If they come and go from the 	

	<p>house, will they risk carrying the virus into the home?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> If you need to depend on help from outside the home, how available is this through other family members, friends, or private hire. What is the risk that they will bring COVID-19 into the home? <input type="checkbox"/> How will you obtain groceries, medications or leave the home for essential appointments? <input type="checkbox"/> Are there other family members in the home that need your support as well e.g. children? Can you manage the support of all individuals under your care while sustaining your own health and well-being? 	
<p>What happens if the caregiver or person with dementia becomes sick?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> What if you become unwell from COVID-19 or other medical condition – what is the back-up plan? What if you need hospitalization, what happens to the person with dementia? <input type="checkbox"/> Can you monitor the person with dementia’s medical conditions? <input type="checkbox"/> What if the person with dementia becomes unwell or has worsening medical conditions? <input type="checkbox"/> What medical support is available – often when someone moves to LTCH, the medical care is assumed by the in-house physician. Will this medical help be available or will the individual still 	

	<p>have support from the former family MD?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> How will medications be renewed?</p>	
<p>What were the reasons for the person with dementia moving to LTCH?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> What stresses were you experiencing physically and emotionally when the individual with dementia was at home or when you were supporting them in their home? Can you manage these stresses now?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Has your medical health changed or do you have new medical conditions since the person with dementia was admitted to LTCH? Will this affect your ability to provide the care the person with dementia's needs? Will your medical conditions become worse?</p>	
<p>Who do you need to talk to for information when considering this decision?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Administrator and Nursing at LTCH</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Medical doctor at LTCH/Family MD</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LHIN Care Coordinator</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other family members</p>	