
North West LHIN – June 7, 2010

Aging at Home Strategy – Enhancing Transitional Care Capacity

The North West LHIN's Aging at Home investments will address four key priority areas during Year 3 of the strategy. These are aligned with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's priorities:

- Enhancing Transitional Care Capacity
- Admission Avoidance/Timely Discharge Initiatives
- Enhanced Home Care
- Outreach Teams

In this issue, we will discuss the enhancements that have been related to transitional care capacity accomplished in Years 1 and 2 of the Aging at Home Strategy.

A major factor causing long emergency room wait times throughout the province is the high number of alternate level of care (ALC) patients occupying acute care hospital beds. ALC patients are individuals who no longer require acute care but are unable to be discharged because the appropriate level of care they require is not always available (i.e. rehab, complex continuing care, long-term care or home with support services).

In response to this need, the North West LHIN has invested in additional transitional care and interim Long-Term Care capacity through the Aging at Home Strategy as follows:

- 5 additional interim long term care beds in Thunder Bay as of June 2008
- Enhanced supportive housing at PR Cook and Jasper Place in Thunder Bay starting in the fall of 2008.
- Support services for:
 - 20 supportive housing units in Kenora in April 2009.
 - 6 supportive housing units in Sioux Lookout in February 2010.
 - 75 transitional supportive housing apartments in McKellar Place in Thunder Bay, opening October 1, 2010.

By enhancing transitional care capacity, patients waiting in hospital as ALC will receive care in the right setting; seniors' care will be enhanced in the community, and beds will be freed up for those waiting in emergency for admission to hospital.