

THE OLTCC LONG TERM CARE MEDICAL DIRECTOR MANUAL

Chapter 6: Admission and Discharge in Alberta LTC homes

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This chapter covers the eligibility criteria for admission to LTC homes in Alberta. Medical directors are rarely involved in the decisions on who comes to the care home. However, they may be consulted by the home administrator to advise on cases that have complex medical needs or may require additional care needs at the facility.

Criteria for Admission

Section 23: h of the Alberta Nursing Homes [Act](#) states below:

The Lieutenant Governor may make regulations prescribing the other requirements or conditions for the admission or continued stay of a resident in a nursing home;

Eligibility ([Alberta Nursing Home Operations Regulations](#), section 3)

Section 3 of the Nursing Home General Regulations Act states that a resident of Alberta must reside in Alberta for three consecutive years at any time preceding the application of benefits and must be a resident of Canada for a period of 10 years in the year preceding the application of benefits.

Admission and Access Criteria

Alberta has a range of publicly funded Continuing Care options that provide integrated services within Home living, Supportive living and Long-Term Care settings. Supportive living options include Designated Supportive Living level 4 and Designated Living Level 4 Dementia. The AHS – [Admission Guidelines for Publicly Funded Continuing Care Living Options document](#) (April 15, 2020) details the access and exclusion criteria for the different levels of publicly funded Supportive living and Long term options in Alberta. The following excerpt below describes the access and exclusion criteria for admission to Long-term care:

Access Criteria:

Clients will be assessed as not able to safely cope in their home or in lower-level living option with or without formal support.

Medical Conditions:

- will have complex unpredictable needs but are clinically stable and can be managed safely with 24-hour on-site Registered Nurse and regularly scheduled and unscheduled on-site physician support
- Complex end of life care needs
- Complex medication management
- Complex nursing interventions
- Unscheduled assessments are often required to address changing resident care issues

Cognitive Status:

- May have any stage of dementia
- May have unpredictable behaviors placing self and others at risk

Functional Status:

- Will have complex physical needs with care requirements that cannot be met at home or in a supportive living environment
- May require the following types of assistance with ADL:
 - Complex nutritional intake requirements
 - Intensive and extensive rehabilitation requirements
 - Complex elimination requirements

Social Support:

- Informal caregivers remain a welcome and integral contributor to the person-centred plan of care
- There may be complex family dynamics requiring 24-hours/7 days RN on-site interventions

Exclusion Considerations:**Long-term Care**

- Clients with unstable acute medical or psychiatric conditions who require acute care hospitalization

Admission Process

Alberta Health Services uses the Inter RAI HC assessment tool to determine the care needs of an individual and access to the appropriate Continuing Care option. In the community access is via [Community Care Access](#) and in hospital, through [Transition Services](#). In the last few years there has been a push to reduce assessments and placements from hospital through various enhancing care in the community [programs](#). In Alberta, a range of continuing care services exist to support the health and wellbeing of individuals in their home, supportive living or Long- term care setting. Access to a Designated Living Option in Continuing Care policy is in place to ensure consistent, principle based, transparent parameters and processes for those requiring access to designated living option (DLO) that is appropriate to their assessed unmet need and to manage the DLO waitlist. This policy which came into effect May 2015, revised July 2019 is scheduled for review on the 4th of July 2022.

Discharge or Transfer of Residents

Section 11 of the Nursing Home General Regulations details conditions in which a resident may be transferred or discharged.

The section reads as follows:

11(1) Subject to subsection (2), the operator or the Minister may declare that a resident is no longer in need of basic care and is eligible for transfer or discharge.

(2) A declaration under subsection (1) shall be based on the following:

(a) in the case of the operator,

(i) on consultation with the resident's attending physician or nurse practitioner, and

(ii) on the recommendation of the assessment committee;

(b) in the case of the Minister, on a report of the attending physician or nurse practitioner and on the records of the nursing home.

Reference links:

[Alberta Nursing Home Operations Regulations,](#)

[if-pf-cc-living-options-assessment.pdf \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)

[Access to Designated Living Option In Continuing Care](#)

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