

AGING MATTERS

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

PRIORITY AREA: HOUSING



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Goal Statement:

To ensure safe affordable housing is available and suitable for ageing in place as care needs increase.

Background:

Currently, MB offers a number of different care and living options for seniors:

The Manitoba Home Care Program, established in September 1974, is the oldest, most comprehensive, province-wide, universal home care program in Canada. Home Care is provided to Manitobans of all ages based on assessed need and taking into account other resources available to the individual, including families, community resources and other programs. The Home Care program was established to help people live at home and remain independent for as long as possible, thereby avoiding or delaying the need for individuals to go into long term care facilities.

The mandate of the program is to provide effective, reliable and responsive community health care services to support independent living, develop appropriate care options with clients and/or family, and facilitate admission into long term care facilities when living in the community is no longer possible. You may be eligible for home care.

Home Care is not a guaranteed service. It requires collaboration from families to be successful. Many missed visits, missed communication of missed visits and time frames for visits are too brief, and inadequate services were noted in the last report by the Provincial Auditor. Assessments and re-assessments are not performed regularly. Social Isolation is not assessed and is often missed.

Actions:

Home Care needs to become more accountable for the services they offer. Social Isolation **MUST** be included in the assessment.

-Self and Family Managed Care:

This may be an option for some motivated families, however the funding provided is less than the actual cost of Home Care and therefore could present a financial challenge.

Recommendation: Funding should be provided at the same cost as if Home Care were providing this service.

-Transitional Care Environment:

Sixty-five new transitional beds opened in the fall of 2017, in support of improved patient care within the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. Following a competitive bidding process, All Seniors Care has been awarded the contract and will accommodate additional residents in a unique care environment at their River Ridge II location at 2701 Scotia Street.

-Priority Home

The new service provides intensive home care to clients. Programming will be provided to clients for up to 90 days, after which it's anticipated that most clients will be able to remain in their homes with regular, ongoing home care, and not require immediate placement in a personal care home. This intensive service will also help reduce the length of time clients spend in hospital, and may help some avoid placement in a personal care home altogether.

-Transition Care Environment has proved successful. The Priority Home initiative is too new to evaluate.

-Private Care

There are also private agencies who offer home care and other special services.

-Independent Living with Services (>100 in province – aka Assisted Living)

Independent Living or a Retirement Residence (sometimes referred to as Independent Living with Services or Assisted Living), is a private seniors living building where you rent your own suite and pay for a service package. The residence may offer various services such as housekeeping, meals, and recreation. Many offer much more.

MB Health does not provide any coverage for this type of living option. You are free to choose the residence you prefer. In this type of living option, you are living in your own home and therefore you may be eligible for Home Care Services, should you require this.

In Summary these are:

- Private residences that are not governed or regulated by the province Governed by Residential Tenancies Act
- Services vary and are described differently – buyer beware!
- For example 24 hour nursing may not mean what you think. Make sure there is a fire Safety plan!

-Supportive Housing:

Supportive Housing is a seniors' housing program with three main components: rent, services and a support component. The rent and services components are paid by the resident. The support staff component of this service is funded through the Regional Health Authorities of Manitoba.

Pharmacology is not covered as it is in PCH. Supportive Housing is the right choice for people who require access to 24 hour supervision and some assistance managing with physical limitations, or ongoing health conditions such as dementia. Residents receive support and cueing with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, and medication reminders. To find out if you are eligible to reside in Supportive Housing, contact your regional health authority (RHA) or speak to your home care case coordinator.

Additional Actions May Include:

Staffing and funding modernization needs to occur in order for this option to fill the gap between living in a community setting and moving to a PCH. Pharmacology should be covered to help offset the cost.

-Personal Care Homes

A Personal Care Home (PCH) is sometimes referred to as a 'Nursing Home' where 24-hour Nursing care and services are on hand and provided by healthcare personnel in a secure environment 24 hours a day. There are approximately 130 PCHs with just under 10,000 beds, in Manitoba.

Approximately 6 years ago the Centre For Health Policy completed a report that estimated the care and housing we would need for the "White Tsunami" in 2021 and then again in 2036. Four thousand PCH and "PCH equivalent beds" were estimated to be needed. To date approximately 500 beds have been added and Government is promising 1,200 more by 2025.

Currently there are Private "PCH like" buildings in place and being built and staffed like a PCH without any oversight or regulatory framework. The monthly rent and service cost can be up wards of \$6,000 per month. There have been stories of clients being evicted when their care needs become too high.

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