

Continuing Care Strategy



Living well in a place you can call home.

Facility-Based Respite Care

November 1, 2011

Family caregivers provide care and support to help their loved ones remain in their community longer, but it can also put a lot of physical, mental and emotional stress on the caregivers themselves. To support them and their families, the Department of Health and Wellness helps caregivers get a break from those responsibilities by helping them access respite beds for their loved ones in licensed long term care facilities across the province.

The Service

The purpose of a respite bed is to provide a caregiver with a planned and temporary break from care giving responsibilities. The break is usually scheduled, but emergency situations where the family caregiver is suddenly and temporarily unavailable may also be accommodated.

How it Works

A respite bed allows an individual to stay in a long term care facility, like a nursing home or residential care facility, for a scheduled amount of time. During the stay, the individual gets the needed care and support from the facility's staff, including meals. The individual returns home at the end of the scheduled time in the facility.

A person may access a licensed respite bed for up to a maximum of 60 days in a calendar year. However, no more than 30 days can be taken between July 1 and October 1, to ensure fair access to the beds during high demand periods.

If You Need a Respite Bed

An individual can apply for a respite bed by calling toll-free 1-800-225-7225. The applicant's care needs and eligibility are assessed by Continuing Care Coordinators. Once the applicant is determined to be eligible for the service, arrangements for a stay in a respite bed are made on a first-come, first-served basis.

How much will it cost?

The standard charge for a licensed respite bed is \$33.25/day and is effective November 1, 2011 - October 31, 2012. An individual or family may apply for a reduced rate by completing an application and undergoing an income test.

Emergency Respite

In emergency situations, every effort is made to complete the application prior to admission. However if necessary, admission to a long term care facility respite care bed may be granted before the application process is concluded.

A situation is considered an emergency when all of the following occur:

- there is a sudden and temporary loss of a caregiver;
- replacement caregivers are not available; and
- the person needing care cannot live safely alone with normally available home care and other community-based supports.

In an emergency situation:

- the person needing care must be willing to accept the closest available respite bed; and
- the person needing care or his/her substitute decision maker if applicable, must agree to complete any outstanding parts of the application immediately after admission to the respite bed.

For more information

Phone: 1-800-225-7225 (toll free)

Website: www.gov.ns.ca/health/ccs