



Entering Long Term Care — Physician Information



For each long-term care client, your District Health Authority is responsible for completing the care assessments for care while the Department of Health and Wellness is responsible for completing the financial assessments.

As a physician, what must I do to help my patient get into a long-term care facility?

Before your patient is admitted to a nursing home or residential care facility, you must complete a Medical Status Report containing your patient's most recent clinical information. The Medical Status Report should be completed as soon as possible so the receiving physician has your patient's relevant information and to enable Continuing Care staff to fill bed vacancies quickly. Completing the Medical Status Report is not covered by Medical Services Insurance (MSI); however, you may use your discretion to charge for this service.

How will my patient know when a long-term care space is available?

Care Coordinators will inform your in-hospital patients about the First Available Bed Policy and your patients in the community where a space is available.

What's the First Available Bed Policy?

Once your patient's assessments are complete, and a hospital patient is eligible to enter a nursing home and/or a residential care facility, but a suitable bed is not available in a home of his/her choice, the patient will be asked to move to the first available nursing home bed within 100 km driving distance of the community of his/her choice. The patient will stay on the wait list for his/her preferred home and will be moved there when a bed becomes available.

What's the Deferral Option?

If your patient is entering a nursing home and/or residential care facility from the community, he/she can choose the Deferral Option, which allows him/her to defer long-term care placement for up to three months (i.e., deferral period) from the day they are notified of an available bed.

Deferral periods cannot be extended beyond the first three-month period. If your patient refuses a second bed offer, his/her name will be withdrawn from all wait lists and he/she would need to reapply.

To learn more about entering your patients into long-term care facilities, please call the Continuing Care toll-free line at **1-800-225-7225**, or visit the Department of Health and Wellness website at **www.gov.ns.ca/health/ccs**