

Introduction

The Ministry of Health has provided funding to create two specialty dementia programs – one in Regina to provide service to the southern portion of the province, and one in Saskatoon to provide service for central and northern areas. The northern program is comprised of the Dementia Assessment Outreach Team and an inpatient neighbourhood (Eastview) located at Parkridge Centre. The program is designed to help support clients and caregivers manage responsive behaviours related to dementia.



What are Responsive Behaviours?

Responsive behaviours is a term, representing how actions, words and gestures are a response, often intentional, that express something important about their personal, social or physical environment (Alzheimer's Society of Canada, 2017). These behaviours may include but are not limited to:

- Agitation
- Wandering and Exit Seeking
- Repetitive Speech
- Aggression

Dementia Assessment Outreach Team

The Dementia Assessment Outreach Team provides support to individuals with a primary diagnosis of dementia who are experiencing responsive behaviours, which are not being managed in their current living environment. The service area includes the eight northern health regions in Saskatchewan. The Outreach Team will provide an interdisciplinary assessment and recommendations, with the goal of stabilizing responsive behaviours in the client's current environment.

The Outreach team provides access to:

- social work
- psychology
- occupational therapy
- geriatric psychiatry
- pharmacy

What types of recommendations will be provided from the Outreach Team?

Recommendations will be specific to each individual. Recommendations will come from all team members and could include:

- medication changes
- staff education
- approach to the client
- environmental changes
- activity suggestions and many more



Dementia Assessment Neighbourhood

The Neighbourhood located at Parkridge Centre in Saskatoon is also referred to as Eastview. Eastview is located within one of the secure neighborhoods.

Eastview is a five bed transition unit that provides: assessment, observations, care, and treatment planning for up to 90 days. The Interdisciplinary team including the outreach team will provide an intensive service related to responsive behaviours. Goals include the development of positive proactive approaches to reduce the potential for responsive behaviours for the client.

The neighbourhood is staffed by nursing and care staff and service assessments will be provided by: occupational therapy, social work, psychology, geriatric psychiatry, physician, pharmacy, and recreation therapy.

How long does a client stay on Eastview?

The stay on Eastview is temporary, with a maximum of **90 days**. The length of stay in the program is dependent on the client's needs and their response to the assessment and care interventions that are provided. When a client is ready for discharge to their previous home environment, the Outreach team will work with the client, family and care providers to assist in the transition home.

What are the criteria to be referred to the program?

- Primary diagnosis of age-related degenerative dementia with responsive behaviours
- Medically stable
- Require enhanced behavioural support in their current care environment
- Exhausted all regional resources including homecare and current behavioral support programs (will vary between regions)
- Not intended as an emergency/crisis service

Exclusionary Criteria: delirium and primary diagnosis of Acquired Brain Injury

How does someone get referred to the program?

- Referrals may be generated from the community, acute care, or long-term care
- Any healthcare provider may complete the referral form
- Family members may request a referral be made to the program
- Physician or Nurse Practitioner must be involved and may be asked to complete portions of the accompanying documentation

Where do you access the referral form?

The Referral Form is available online at: www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca under Seniors Health and Continuing Care.

All supporting documentation and information that is required with the referral can be found at the site above.

If you have questions or would like more information, contact the Dementia Assessment Outreach Team at 306-655-3844

The Dementia Assessment Outreach Team and Neighbourhood was developed through the support of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, the Alzheimer's Society of Saskatchewan and the eight Northern health Regions

Alzheimer Society
S A S K A T C H E W A N



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