

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

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MEMORANDUM TO: LHIN CEOs

FROM: Rachel Kampus
Acting Assistant Deputy Minister
Health System Accountability and Performance Division

SUBJECT: **ALC patients who refuse an offer of admission to a
prior-chosen LTC home bed**

In response to requests from hospitals and LHINs, the Ministry wishes to clarify the options available to a hospital if an ALC patient has been determined by the CCAC to be eligible for long-term care (LTC) home admission and has made an informed and voluntary application for admission to an LTC home of their choice, but then refuses a subsequent bed offer from that home.

CCACs are the designated placement co-ordinators for LTC home admissions and have the responsibility for providing assistance, information and counselling about LTC home admission. Persons who have been determined by the CCAC to be eligible for LTC home admission have the right to make voluntary and informed choices in selecting LTC homes to apply to, taking into account their personal circumstances; e.g. they cannot be required to choose from a pre-selected list of homes.

In accordance with s.16 of Regulation 965 made under the *Public Hospitals Act* (PHA), if a patient is no longer in need of treatment in the hospital, the attending physician, nurse practitioner, or other authorized person as described in the Regulation must communicate a discharge order to the patient. The hospital must then discharge the patient, and the patient must leave the hospital on the date set out in the discharge order unless the hospital grants permission for the patient to remain in the hospital for a period of up to twenty-four hours after the date set out in the discharge order.

Treatment of an ALC patient in the hospital may no longer be required if a bed becomes available in an LTC home to which the patient has previously applied. If the patient does not move into the available LTC home bed within 5 days of the offer being made to the patient, the hospital may discharge the patient, unless:

- the patient has a health condition, short-term illness or injury which prevents the patient from moving into the home at that time or which would make moving into the home at that time detrimental to the applicant's health, or

- there is an emergency in the home or an outbreak of disease which prevents the applicant from moving into the home at that time.

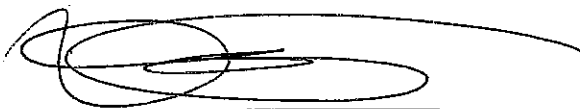
Patients who have been discharged but choose to remain in hospital may be charged an unregulated rate by the hospital. Section 10 of Regulation 552 of the *Health Insurance Act*, which sets co-payment amounts that may be charged to chronic care patients, does not apply to patients who have been discharged in accordance with the provisions of the PHA.

Prior to applying for admission to one or more LTC homes, ALC patients must be advised of the consequences of their selection(s). This includes advising them that if they refuse a bed offer for a LTC home they apply to, a determination may be made that they are no longer in need of treatment in the hospital. A discharge order may then be communicated to them, and the hospital may charge them an unregulated daily rate if they choose to remain in hospital.

The Ministry expects hospitals to begin discharge planning as soon as possible, including by making referrals to the CCAC for patients who may require LTC home admission.

This memo does not supersede legislative and regulatory requirements, including requirements related to the LTC home admission process under the LTCHA and Regulation 79/10. Furthermore, LHINs, hospitals and CCACs are encouraged to refer to prior Ministry communications on LTC home placement of hospital patients.

Thank you for your support and cooperation,



Rachel Kampus

Assistant Deputy Minister (A)