

Information Document

For Long-Term Care Control Homes Participating in Our Palliative Toolkit Study



Who We Are

SPA-LTC is a program of research aimed at Strengthening a Palliative Approach in Long-Term Care.

The program's goals are to:

- Improve capacity for a palliative approach to care in Long-Term Care (LTC) homes
- Introduce new, free resources to support LTC homes with implementing a palliative approach to care
- Increase knowledge about the impact of palliative approaches to care in LTC homes
- Help support LTC homes with meeting new palliative accreditation standards

What is the Goal of the Palliative Toolkit Study

The current study ongoing at your LTC home is a large trial involving 18 LTC homes across Canada. Its aim is to evaluate the effectiveness and feasibility of the palliative toolkit developed by SPA-LTC, which includes elements such as Palliative Champion Teams, palliative care education, staff Comfort Care Rounds for capacity building and reflection, prognostic tools to trigger end-of-life discussions, Palliative Care Conferences, illness trajectory pamphlets, and bereavement pamphlets. Half of the homes were randomly selected to do a faster launch of the program (intervention home), whereas the other half were randomly selected for a slower launch (control home).

Your Home's Involvement

As a control home, the research team will be recruiting family members and staff to first complete a baseline demographics questionnaire (to better understand who you are), and a baseline survey (to hear about your experiences in LTC). Afterward, a chart audit will be completed on participating residents, meaning their condition and frequency of health services use will be recorded. At the end of the study period, follow-up staff and family surveys will also be conducted. Being a control home means that these actions will be completed before the palliative toolkit is implemented at the home. The purpose of this is to create a reliable comparison point when evaluating the toolkit after its implementation.

SPA-LTC

Strengthening a Palliative Approach
in Long-Term Care