

Information Document

For Long-Term Care Intervention 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 an intervention 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, all elements of the palliative toolkit as described above will be implemented at your home with the assistance of members of the research team if required. During this period, a chart audit of participating residents will also be completed, meaning their condition and frequency of health services use will be recorded. Surveys and/or interviews will also be completed for all relevant participants of each palliative toolkit element. At the end of the study period after the full implementation of the palliative toolkit, follow-up staff and family surveys will be conducted.

SPA-LTC

Strengthening a Palliative Approach
in Long-Term Care