

Regional Best Practice Guidelines Initiative in Long Term Care

This initiative has been developed by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to support long term care homes (LTCH) in adopting evidence-based practices that support systematic and consistent approaches to quality care for residents. As one element of the Ontario Nursing Strategy, this initiative is funded for a three year period, 2005-2008.

Through this initiative, regional coordinators have been hired as a resource to LTCH that may be interested in implementing Best Practice Guidelines (BPGs), such as those developed by the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO).

Some of the strategies used to deliver this initiative include:

1. Raise Awareness – promote the importance of evidence-based practice among LTCH that are not aware of the guidelines or how they may be used;
2. Engagement and Capacity Development – deliver education sessions about BPGs to administrators, directors of care and staff, as well as other interested groups;
3. BPG Implementation – develop and mentor individuals in LTCH who will promote and support knowledge transfer within their region, and provide operational support for BPG integration;
4. Integration – linking with other initiatives and networks involved in supporting LTCH residents and staff.

Best Practice Regional Coordinator positions are funded through a host agency. St Joseph's Health Care is the host for the Regional Best Practice Coordinator for the South West Region which covers 10 counties with 109 Long Term Care Homes, the same geographic area for SJHC tertiary services. The position is linked with SGS at Parkwood Hospital.