

Dementia Advice

Available through Health Link



Frequently Asked Questions

What is dementia?

Dementia, a syndrome which affects memory, thinking, orientation, judgment and ability to carry out daily activities. The most common type of dementia is Alzheimer's disease.

How does the new dementia advice service work?

By dialing 811, callers will reach Health Link staff who can assess their needs and provide immediate advice for their concerns, 24/7. When needed, callers can also be referred to a specialized dementia nurse for additional support.

Who can access this service?

ALL Albertans can access the dementia advice service.

Why is AHS increasing support for dementia?

Providing dementia advice is an important health service both now and looking into the future. The rate of dementia is expected to more than double in Alberta as the baby boom generation moves into older age. By 2038, it is estimated that about one in ten Albertans over the age of 65 and nearly half over age 90 will be living with dementia.

What is the impact of dementia on individuals and families?

Dementia usually means a slow decline in mental capacity with associated changes in judgment and sometimes in behaviour. This has a huge impact on the quality of life and wellbeing of people who live with dementia as well as their caregivers.

How can a specialized dementia nurse help?

The dementia nurse, who has extensive training and experience in senior's health, will be able to do a more in-depth assessment to gain an understanding of each individual situation. They will provide support and advice to patients and caregivers, as well as link callers to services available in their community.

How will this new service help the health system?

The new dementia advice service aims to reduce the number of avoidable Emergency Department visits for dementia-related concerns. This is better for patient and families and will help free up space in Emergency Departments.

How can I help promote this new service?

Promotional materials are available online including a poster and patient handout. Please visit our website to access the order form or download electronic versions.

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How is this new service being funded?

The addition of dementia advice to Health Link has been made possible through grant funding from the Government of Alberta.

Is there a provincial strategy for supporting the care of dementia patients in Alberta?

The Government of Alberta is currently developing the Alberta Dementia Strategy and Action Plan of which the new dementia advice service will be part of.

Where can I get more information?

Website: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/scns/Page12938.aspx>

Seniors Health SCN™: seniorshealth.scn@albertahealthservices.ca

Health Link: healthlink@albertahealthservices.ca.