

February 9, 2015

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Sunrise Encore opens, offering additional living options

New supportive living suites increases local capacity for area residents

OLDS — More local seniors are now able to get the round-the-clock care and support they need in their community with the opening of 60 new supportive living beds at Sunrise Encore, operated by Continuum Health Care in partnership with Alberta Health Services (AHS).

The supportive living suites, part of the newly opened 107-bed Sunrise Encore facility, includes 35 supportive living spaces designed to support adults with disabilities and seniors with complex health problems who need assistance with daily personal care needs, such as medication, hygiene and mobility.

The facility also offers 20 supportive living suites specifically designed for residents with mild to moderate dementia, as well as five transition beds that will provide a place for patients who no longer require care at Olds Hospital but are awaiting placement in a continuing care facility in another community.

“We understand that as people age, they want to be in a comfortable setting and in their communities close to family and friends,” says Stephen Mandel, Minister of Health. “We’re very pleased to support facilities like Sunrise Encore, which help Albertans get the care they need in the most appropriate environment, and in a way that supports their independence.”

The provincial government provided \$5.3 million in funding through the Affordable Supportive Living Initiative (ASLI) to support the construction of Sunrise Encore.

“Government is committed to providing safe, quality and supportive living options that meet the diverse needs of Alberta seniors,” says Jeff Johnson, Seniors Minister. “By working with community partners, we are building spaces where seniors can receive comfortable and appropriate care close to family and friends.”

Kerry Bales, Chief Zone Officer for AHS Central Zone, says there are now more living options for seniors in Olds than ever before.

“With the opening of Sunrise Encore, we’re able to provide the care and support to residents who have more complex needs, including those with dementia, while helping them remain in their community, surrounded by the familiar faces of friends and family,” Bales says.

“We are very pleased to have these suites added to the community.”

Previously, Olds had no transition beds and no supportive living spaces for individuals with mild to moderate dementia or with more complex health care needs. As a result, individuals would occupy long-term care beds or other assisted living accommodations with additional supports.

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“We all want to live independently as long as possible, but eventually we may need a little extra care and support,” says Ian McAuley, Director of Operations for Continuum Health Care. “Now that extra care is available right here in Olds, allowing residents to get the care they need and remain in the community they call home.”

Sunrise Encore also has 46 private residence suites, as well as two palliative care suites through a partnership with the Olds and District Hospice Society.

The palliative care suites will be rented, equipped and furnished by the Olds and District Hospice Society, with health care services operated by AHS.

Both the supportive living spaces and the transition beds, which are funded by AHS, are staffed by on-site licensed practical nurses and health care aides who provide 24-hour personal care and support. Care planning and registered nurse support are available through AHS Home Care to help seniors remain at Sunrise Encore as their care needs change.

Each of the new suites at Sunrise Encore offers ample living space, as well as space for small kitchen appliances in private settings. There are also a number of suites specifically designed for couples or families to comfortably enjoy, while receiving the ideal level of assistance. Common dining rooms, a fitness area and a multi-purpose lounge and fireplace are also featured in the facility.

Residents began moving into Sunrise Encore last month.

Continuum Health Care also operates supportive living facilities in Camrose, Drayton Valley, Ponoka, Wetaskiwin, Lethbridge and High River.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Its mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans.

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For media inquiries, contact:

Heather Marcoux
AHS Communications
403-356-4206