

Convalescent Care Short Stay Program:

Convalescent Care Programs provide short stay convalescent supportive and restorative care for clients who do not need acute hospital care, but cannot manage in their own homes, when there is a restorative need present. The program provides 24-hour care to people who require specific medical and therapeutic services in a supportive environment. The goal is to help patients recover strength, endurance and functioning before returning home. The application for this program is arranged through the local Community Care Access Centre.

The application and assessment process for a Convalescent Care program admission is similar to that for long-term care placement. This information is used to determine the eligibility for admission to the Convalescent Care bed and to assist the Convalescent Care team to determine if they will be able to meet patient needs. Patients are admitted to Convalescent Care programs for a temporary stay, expecting that individuals will return home. There is no accommodation cost for this program. The Convalescent Care program is funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. However, there are incidental costs, such as transportation to and from appointments, telephone, television and pharmacy dispensary fee.

Pre-booking stays is not available, and admissions are based on a waitlist date and bed availability. Patients may be admitted from hospitals or from the community. The length of stay for short stay Convalescent Care program is a maximum of ninety days per year, typically 30-55 days. The length of stay is assessed ongoing and is determined by the patient's progress in the program.

Short Stay Convalescent Care beds are approved in long-term care homes or on occasion in designated hospital units in accordance with the Long Term Care Act 1007, meeting the regulatory standards set out for the Short Stay Convalescent Care program. The Short Stay Convalescent Care beds for the South East LHIN are located within the **Lennox and Addington General Hospital** in Napanee.

Eligibility Criteria to enter a Convalescent Care Program in Ontario:

To be eligible for the Convalescent Care program, a person must:

- Be at least 18 years old and insured under the Ontario Health Insurance Program
- Need time to recover strength, endurance, or functioning and would benefit from a short stay in a convalescent care program
- Have needs that can be met in a long-term care home
- Be able to return home within 90 days of admission
- The patient must require nursing care be available on site 24 hours a day
- Assistance with activities of daily living at frequent intervals, or
- On-site supervision or monitoring at frequent intervals to insure his/her safety or well-being

Exclusion criteria for the Convalescent Care Program:

- Cognitive impairment, behavioural issues or unstable psychiatric disorders that impact the client's ability in *anyway* to participate in convalescent care activities
- Less than one week of convalescent care required
- Permanent long-term care, complex care, slow stream rehabilitation (awaiting active hospital rehabilitation i.e. St. Mary's) or end stage palliative care admissions
- Procedures or investigations for diagnostic purposes
- Patients cannot be admitted to a Convalescent Care bed to await for LTC placement