

**Resident, Family, Friend and Responsible Party** **Newsletter – April ‘24**

Dear Strathmere Lodge residents, family members, friends/responsible parties:

1. **Annual Quality Improvement Plan**



As required of all provincial long term care homes, hospitals and other health service providers annually, the Strathmere Lodge Annual Quality Improvement Plan (for the period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025) has been submitted to **Health Quality Ontario** (the provincial body dedicated to reporting to the public about the quality of Ontario’s publicly funded health system), following approval by Middlesex County Council.

After reviewing comparative provincial data on long term care homes, The Lodge’s Quality Improvement Committee (comprising representation from residents, families, physicians, staff and managers) has decided to focus on two (2) areas for 2024/25, they being:

1. The number of Lodge residents transferred to the hospital emergency department; and
2. The number of residents who sustain a fall.

With respect to transfers to the emergency department, while sometimes a resident transfer is warranted to deal with an acute care need, generally speaking, it is desirable to minimize hospital transfers, as the hospital environment is not always conducive to long term care home residents, notably frail seniors.

With respect to resident falls, the obvious goal here is to minimize falls as falls can lead to injury.

To minimize transfers to the emergency department, Lodge initiatives for 2024/25 will include seeking to hire a Nurse Practitioner via available provincial funding. An on-site Nurse Practitioner would have a scope of practice that will enable some health conditions to be treated in-house versus a transfer to hospital, such as doing sutures that may be needed further to an injury.

To minimize resident falls, Lodge initiatives for 2024/25 will include implementing a new cordless falls prevention monitoring system. This cordless technology will enable us to better position such devices as bed alarms, wheelchair alarms, fall mat alarms and motion sensors, which alert staff to assist residents who are seeking to mobilize, but are at risk of falling without staff assistance.

It is important to note that The Lodge compares favourably to other provincial long term care homes when it comes to both transfers to hospital and resident falls, as per provincially available comparative data. But, by selecting these 2 initiatives, The Lodge seeks to further enhance our performance.

The Lodge’s 2024/25 Annual Quality Improvement Plan is posted on the bulletin board near Reception.

1. **Resident Clothing Closet and Drawers**



Our Lodge clothes laundering process results in quick turnaround times, which minimizes the need to have/store large volumes of clothing in the provided closet and drawers.

Given that our closets and drawers have finite space, we ask families to rotate clothing in/out as the seasons change, in order to avoid large volumes of clothing in the closet and drawers, which can lead to disorganization.

We appreciate families’ assistance in reviewing clothing in order to ensure that clothing is kept organized and easily accessible.

1. **Labelling of Residents’ Clothing**



To prevent missing clothing … This is a reminder that new clothing needs to be labelled with the resident’s name before a resident begins to wear it (this also includes items such as shoes/slippers and personal blankets/throws). Please ensure that you use the Clothing Bin near the main entrance to deposit clothing requiring labelling, after inventorying the clothing items on the form provided at the bin (further instructions are provided at the clothing bin).

For inquiries regarding missing clothing and the like, please contact John Fournier, Environmental Services Manager, at (519) 245-2520, ext. 6244 (or, via email: jfournier@middlesex.ca).

1. **Labelling of Other Personal Resident Items**

Apart from clothes labelling noted above, residents/families are encouraged to label other personal resident effects (including new items brought to The Lodge from time-to-time), notably items that are more portable in nature, such as TV remote controls.

1. **In Conclusion ….**



Please let me know if you would like to see certain issues addressed in future newsletter editions (contact Brent Kerwin, Administrator, 519-245-2520, ext. 6222, or via

email at: bkerwin@middlesex.ca).

Please share a copy of this newsletter with other family members and friends, or direct them to our [web page](http://www.middlesex.ca/departments/long-term-care): <http://www.middlesex.ca/departments/long-term-care>.

Hardcopies of our newsletter are also maintained at our Public Information Board near Reception. Copies of older newsletter editions are compiled in binders at our Reception desk, and are available for your review.

**Brent Kerwin,** Administrator