



Why you should keep your loved one in long term care

- If you have a loved one in long term care, it is understandable that you are concerned during the deadly COVID-19 pandemic. The frail elderly are especially vulnerable. Ontario will see more cases. With current public health measures increased deaths are predicted to be between 3,000 and 15,000.
- As Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Ontario Minister of Long-Term Care, said in an interview this week, there is far more “complexity” in long term care than twenty years ago. Three quarters, or more, of resident have a cognitive impairment. Many are dependent of skilled care staff for basic activities of daily living like feeding, dressing, toileting and bathing. Transfers may require a mechanical lift or the assistance of two persons.
- Families are unlikely to meet the care needs of the loved ones in homes.

Important Changes to the Long-Term Care Homes Act - In regards to taking your loved one home even for a short period, we wish to advise you of the recent Amendments to Ontario Regulation 79/10 (Regulation) under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 (LTCHA) pertaining to long-term care home discharge during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The recent amendment requires that any resident who is taken home by family members during the pandemic will be discharged from Grace / Faith Manor. During the time the resident is away from the home, the bed will be available for occupancy by another person.

The process for returning to Grace / Faith Manor differs according to the time the resident was away from the home:

- For absences that are three months or less, the resident would be deemed eligible and accepted for admission by Grace / Faith Manor, and simply placed into the “re-admission” category (this category is the highest-ranking category for vacant beds; it ranks higher than the “crisis” category).
- Longer absences require a truncated assessment by the placement coordinator with the ability for Grace / Faith Manor to refuse the admission if



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the circumstances for refusing an admission in the LTCHA exist. If accepted, the person would be placed into the "re-admission" category for Grace / Faith Manor.

What this means is that if you do choose to take your loved one home even for a short period of time, he/she will be discharged from Grace / Faith Manor. You will be provided with a copy of your loved one's current care plan, and list of medications. You are responsible for all medical care (would need to find a physician to oversee his/her medical care), medication management and assume full responsibility for the care, safety and well-being of your loved one.

Prior to making a final decision, you should also review the document called: "Thinking About Removing Your Older Loved One from Long Term Care During COVID19? Here are 25 important questions to consider".

- In summary, removing your loved one from long term care is not in the best interests of your loved ones. They are removed from professional caregivers where there are extraordinary measures to protect them from the COVID-19 virus. The unfortunate may occur. If so, they may receive the most compassionate care in the nursing home.