

SENIORS HEALTH STRATEGIC CLINICAL NETWORK

November 2015

New Dementia Advice Service Launches

Dementia Advice
Available through Health Link



Dementia Advice Nurses:
Shawna Reid (Practice Lead, Dementia Advice),
Rose Merke (middle) and Kathleen Cullen (right)

Dementia Advice is now available through Health Link! The new service launched on September 28th, 2015 provides telephone-based support for family and friends caring for someone living with dementia, as well as the person living with dementia themselves.

Currently available in North, Central, and South Zones, the service operates from noon until 8:15pm 7 days per week. In the Spring, those Albertans in Edmonton and Calgary Zones will be encouraged to access the service as well.

Dementia Advice can be easily accessed through Health Link's 811 service. New decision support tools have been developed and implemented to guide two terrific Dementia Advice nurses, who started in their positions in September.

Communication of Dementia Advice has been shared with AHS along with media in North, Central and South Zones and community partners. Evaluation of the service has already begun and early results are exciting; the Nurses have been very busy!

For more information please visit our web page at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/scns/>



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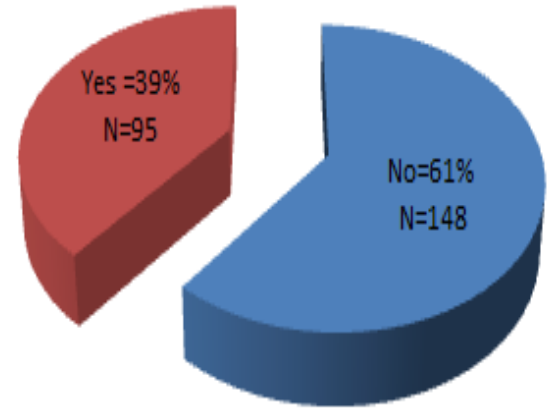
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Alberta Medical Association Survey Highlights— People Living with Dementia (PLWD)

Working closely with the Alberta Medical Association (AMA), the Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network developed and distributed a survey to solicit family physician perspectives on gaps in care of people living with dementia. Distributed via the AMA eNewsletter to 4035 primary care physicians, the survey was conducted from June 23 – July 9, 2015. Below are some key highlights from the 275 survey responses:

61% of survey respondents felt that the outlined themes were inclusive, 39% felt that gaps in the themes existed. These six existing themes outlined are:

- Primary Health Care (PHC) is the foundation for recognition, diagnosis and management of PLWD
- Focused diagnostic services are required to support PHC
- Formal referral linkages to specialized services are necessary to support PHC
- Physician compensation structures need review
- Information and technology innovations are key in supporting PLWD in PHC
- Driving cessation – evidenced based guideline for safe driving is required.

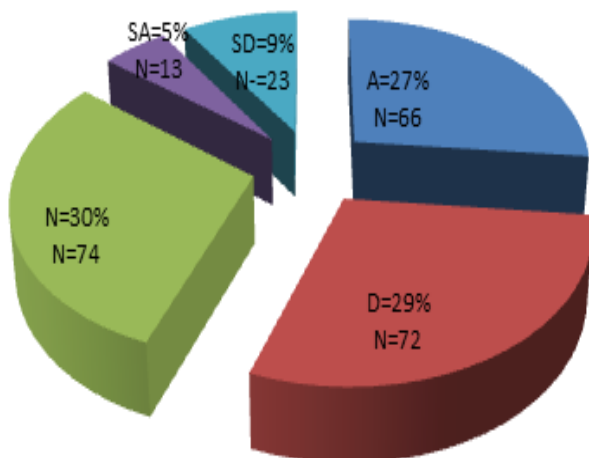


Physicians expressed ideas that additional themes need to be considered:

- Support for Caregivers/Family Advocates
- Rural Settings – unique needs
- Home Care and Home Care Supports
- Development of formal linkages to other community supports
- PHC and crisis interventions in the community.

I have skills/training in the area of recognizing and providing care to PLWD.

■ A-Agree ■ D-Disagree ■ N-Neutral ■ SA-Strongly Agree ■ SD-Strongly Disagree



Other Physician responses:

24% of family physicians who responded estimated that presently 10% or more of their current practice involves assessment of persons with cognitive concerns or care of people living with dementia.

38% of family physicians responding to the survey felt that they did not have the necessary training or skills in the area of recognizing and providing care to people living with dementia.

'SAVE THE DATE'

Advancing Dementia Diagnosis and
Management in Alberta

The Foundational Role of Primary Health Care
Supported by Specialized Services



We are pleased to announce a collaborative
workshop planned for:

Friday, February 26th, 2016

A full day event for primary health care
clinicians and other key stakeholders that pro-
vide services to people living with dementia in
the community.

Please **'HOLD'** the date in your calendars.

Departure of the Seniors Health Scientific Director

Dr. Jayna Holroyd-Leduc joined the Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) as our first Scientific Directors over three years ago.

Dr. Holroyd-Leduc is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary.



Dr. Jayna Holroyd-Leduc

She has a strong background in research with a fellowship through the VA Quality Scholar program at UCSF and her interests include knowledge translation and improving care provided to older patients.

Dr. Holroyd-Leduc left her role as the Scientific Director with the SH SCN at the end of October to continue her clinical and

academic pursuits.

She will continue to be an active contributor to the Core Committee and work of the SH SCN.

Her contributions as Scientific Director have been instrumental to our successes and we wish her great success in her future endeavors.

We Invite You To Join Us!

AHS launched the Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network in the Summer of 2012 and we have since established a Community of Practice that engages over 350 health professionals.

There are many opportunities for engagement with us as your interest and availability permits—from keeping informed by receiving our newsletters and other communications to participating in working groups.

We invite you to join our growing Community of Practice to share your knowledge, experience and feedback.

Please contact either:

Dennis Cleaver, Executive Director at dennis.cleaver@ahs.ca or

Duncan Robertson, Senior Medical Director at duncandr.robertson@ahs.ca

Strategic Clinical
Networks (SCNs)
Alberta's engines
of innovation.



Appropriate Use of Antipsychotics (AUA) - Supportive Living Project Update

We are dipping our toes into the Supportive Living environment with an Early Adopter Phase for the Appropriate Use of Antipsychotics (AUA) project.

On September 11, teams from nine Supportive Living sites, and their Home Care Case Managers met for the first learning workshop in Red Deer.

Our heartfelt thank you to the following sites who volunteered to help trial the AUA resources and approach that has been developed for the LTC sector:

Extendicare Sunrise Encore and Sunrise Villages, Agecare Sagewood Seniors Community and Walden Heights, Covenant Health Chateau Vitaline and St. Thomas Health Centre, Shepherd's Care Foundation Vanguard, Chartwell Eau Claire and Mountain View Seniors Housing Aspen Ridge.

Michele Ray-Jones is the Practice Lead who will be supporting these sites during this Early Adopter Phase. Michele will also be connecting with the Supportive Living sites in the other zones who were engaged with the implementation of the AUA Project in the LTC sites to collect their feedback on the applicability of the approach in the Supportive Living sector.

We will keep you posted on their progress!

More Information

In the coming months we will keep you posted on the work of our Seniors Health SCN. If you wish to learn more, or become more involved, please contact either:

Scott Fielding: scott.fielding@ahs.ca,

Dr. Duncan Robertson: duncandr.robertson@ahs.ca

Dennis Cleaver: dennis.cleaver@ahs.ca

Rural Male Caregivers of Spouses Diagnosed with Dementia—

Ryan Waldorf RN, BN

I have always admired caregivers that I have come into contact with in my role as a registered nurse and as a novice researcher.



Milligan & Wiles (2010) make the observation that from cradle to grave, we give and receive care; it enriches our lives and bolsters our ability to function successfully.

Despite this acknowledgment, rural male caregivers experiences of caregiving are poorly understood.

My thesis question: How do informal male caregivers of spouses with dementia in rural southern and central Alberta come to understand their role as a caregiver, was my attempt to fill this knowledge gap.

I was able to interview 12 rural male caregivers and utilized qualitative grounded theory methodology to analyze the data. The result was *Rural Male Caregiving Theory* that integrated the importance of rural place and space and hegemonic masculinity (Connell, 2005) that influenced the caregiving experience.

The core category *separating the wheat from the chaff* represented the difficult choices and decisions on determining what is valuable for the caregiver and what could be set aside or not seen as a priority for the caregiver in the moment.

The resulting themes and sub themes identify the course of the caregiving experience, from the beginning of *watchful waiting: dying by inches* to the final transition of *crossing over*.

It is time that we acknowledge and appreciate all that caregivers work is critical and we need to provide them with the tools and resources needed to provide care in rural areas across Alberta and Canada.

Dementia Friends Canada is a national awareness and public engagement initiative. The aim is to create a more aware and informed Canadian population to dispel myths and reduce stigma about dementia.

Dementia Friends Canada is an Alzheimer Society and Government of Canada.

For more information on how to become a Dementia Friend, go to www.dementiafriends.ca