

Referral Criterial for SAGE

To All AHS Physicians and Health Centres:

What You Need To Know When Referring a Client to SAGE

The SAGE (Stroke and Geriatric Empowerment) Unit is a 12-bed stroke rehab and geriatric unit located at the Two Hills Health Centre in Two Hills, Alberta. SAGE is a secondary stroke rehabilitation unit designated by the Alberta Provincial Stroke Strategy (APSS).

Our staffing includes: physicians, consulting geriatricians, nurses, pharmacist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, speech-language pathologist, recreation therapist, mental health nurse, dietitian, respiratory therapist, rehab assistants, social worker and discharge planner.

We see patients of varying ages and pathological conditions (mainly neurological, but also with orthopedic conditions where the need to restore functional independence is the main goal).

Most clients stay at SAGE for four to eight weeks, depending on the degree of functional deficits. One to two weeks of physical and/or geriatric assessments may be provided. Patients should expect to participate in two to three hours of rehabilitation per day, Monday to Friday. Other components of our program include family conferences, weekend passes for clients who are able to go home, the capability to organize telehealth sessions (e.g., Telestroke), and discharge planning including support for the continuation of rehabilitation in the community.

Referrals are reviewed for suitability by the intake nurse with consultation from the rest of the rehab team. Referral forms are two pages that have to be completely filled before faxing.

The following must also be included:

- 1) **Medication profile.**
- 2) **Physician's admission history.**
- 3) **Rehabilitation notes (PT, OT, SLP, etc.).**
- 4) **Reports from clinical investigations and/or specialist consultations (e.g., X-ray, CT/MRI scan, Carotid Doppler, Holter Monitor and Echo/ Anti-phospholipid levels if Cardio Embolic.***

*** It is especially important that these reports be sent by facilities that are out of province or those that do not have access to Netcare.**

Criteria for referral

- 1) Clients will benefit from treatment for functional goals that support improved independence.
- 2) Clients must be medically stable. ALL medical issues must be identified and addressed prior to admission.
- 3) Orthopedic patients need to have at least partial weight-bearing status.
- 4) Clients have to be motivated to do extensive inpatient rehabilitation.
- 5) Clients must be able to follow one-step commands, have sufficient attention, short term memory, and insight to progress through the rehabilitation process.

If a patient is admitted and we find that they are not medically stable or not motivated, they will be returned to the referring facility.

See Also:

- 1) SAGE Brochure
- 2) SAGE Information Package (to be given to the clients and family of prospective referrals to the SAGE Unit).
- 3) SAGE Referral Tool (2 pages) to be filled out completely.

For further information, please contact Tracy Benoit, Unit Manager @780-657-3057.

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