

Memory Care Program Toolkit:

Backgrounder

Every four minutes, a person is diagnosed with Dementia in Canada and it is the foremost debilitating disease for those over 65 years of age in our country. Dementia has a devastating effect on individuals and their families and it places a huge burden on our healthcare and economic system. Despite this, there is still significant under diagnosis as many people can go undetected for years in the community. This can lead to a worsening of the disease which can have further negative repercussions. This situation can be particularly pronounced in Retirement Homes where activities of daily living are often conducted by facility staff. A Memory Care Program that was implemented in an Ottawa, Ontario Retirement home revealed that approximately 1 in 3 Residents have unrecognized dementia and that the original prevalence of Dementia in the home increased from 41% to 67% after completion of the Memory Care Program.

Objective

This toolkit was created to provide Health Care Professionals with a best practice model to implement a **Memory Care Program** in a Retirement/LTC Home or a Primary Care setting. Inside this toolkit you will find all of the steps and resources needed to ensure that Patients/Residents can be properly screened and assessed for Dementia or Mild Cognitive Impairment which can lead to earlier detection and potentially better outcomes for the Patient/Resident.