

The GEM Program

You have been seen by the Geriatric Emergency Management (GEM) Nurse. The GEM Nurse sees older people who come to the Emergency Department and who have been identified with special concerns. They are nurses with special training in geriatrics, and they can make recommendations for support at home or follow up with specialists if you need it.

The goal of the GEM Nurse is to help you to go back to where you live and be as safe and as independent as you can be.

Why did the GEM Nurse see me?

The Emergency Department staff may ask the GEM Nurse to see you if have had:

- A lot of recent visits to the Emergency Department
- Any major changes in the amount of help you need at home
- Any concerns about your physical safety, your emotional safety and/or the safety in your home
- Any recent change in your health, memory or your ability to manage day-to-day activities at home

Can anyone be seen by a GEM Nurse?

You must be referred to the GEM Nurse by the Emergency Department. People must be 65 years or older and be living in their own home or a Retirement Residence.

What to expect when you are seen by The GEM Nurse

The GEM Nurse asks you a few questions about how you are doing. If it is needed they will do a more detailed assessment including your physical and mental health and how you are managing at home.

The GEM Nurse will spend about 30 minutes talking to you. You do not have to participate if you do not want to. When possible, and if you agree, the GEM nurse may speak with your family/caregivers to help with the assessment.

What to expect after you have been seen by the GEM Nurse

With the GEM Nurse you may make a follow-up plan to help you when you leave the Emergency Department. This may include:

- Sending a letter to your family doctor or other health care professionals who give you care
- Making referrals to Medical Specialists
- Linking you up with support from health agencies or community services

Your GEM follow-up plan is outlined on the back of this booklet for you to take home.

The emergency department staff may also give you information to follow at home.

