

DID YOU KNOW?

- 30-60% of older people experience functional decline when acutely hospitalized
- One year after hospital discharge, less than 50% of older adults recover to their pre-illness level of functioning
 - Up to 50% of older adults experience functional decline during hospitalization that is largely independent of their presenting medical illness

The Acute Care for Elders (ACE) program is designed specifically to meet the needs of the hospitalized elderly patient and to:

- ✓ Reduce functional decline.
- ✓ Reduce hospital acquired disability.
- ✓ Reduce the preventable need for Long Term Care (LTC) upon discharge.

The ACE program involves both environmental design and process changes that will eventually be rolled out to all QHC acute care areas.

Process changes include:

- ✓ High risk screening
- ✓ Assessment and restorative interventions
- ✓ Targeting syndromes and other matters that commonly affect seniors such as: mobility, frailty, dementia, nutrition, and caregiver support.

The physical environment of the new ACE unit includes:

- ✓ Raised toilet seats
- ✓ Well positioned hand rails
- ✓ A chair in each room in order to promote getting out of bed for meals
- ✓ A common room
- ✓ A separate dining room
- ✓ Clear signage

What can I expect as a senior and patient at Quinte Health Care?

Practices such as:

- Encouragement to get out of bed during mealtime
- Normalized routines and activities
- Enhanced toileting routines to minimize the use of bed pans/catheters
- Enhanced medication review

These are just a few of the practices that our elderly patients can expect as part of their care plan as we strive to enhance care for seniors.

The ACE philosophy includes enhanced education and support for the patient and their family members with more attention placed on engaging patients and their families in decisions and ensuring they are supported to express their wishes.

Enhancing care for seniors

QHC's ACE Unit

Quinte Health Care's ACE unit is located on Quinte 4 at QHC Belleville General Hospital. It includes 30 beds in total - 20 beds for Elderly patients who require acute care (ACE beds), and 10 beds for patients who are waiting for placement in a Long Term Care (LTC) facility (Alternative Level of Care (ALC) for Long Term Care).

Each member of the team, which includes family members, volunteers and others who have contact with the patient, will work together and do what they are able to help the patient achieve their goals.



**Kim Fletcher,
Manager of the
ACE Unit**

Criteria for admission to ACE

Patients 65 years or older who come in from home/retirement home with an acute illness requiring hospitalization, plus any 3 or more of the following:

- Decreased functional abilities;
- Change in cognition and/or behavior;
- One or more geriatric syndromes or problems common to unwell seniors (such as falls, incontinence, polypharmacy, adverse drug reactions, acute or chronic pain, delirium) etc;
- Complex social issues;
- Positive iCART (Assessment Urgency Algorithm - AUA)

For more information,
please visit our website:
www.qhc.on.ca

Acute Care for Elders (ACE) at Quinte Health Care



ACE
Acute Care for Elders

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