



Quality Care for Seniors



Several months ago, our column featured information about the Quality Improvement Plans. The plans were developed together by the hospitals to improve experience and safety for patients, residents, staff, physicians and volunteers.

Almonte General Hospital and Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital have another quality plan that is focused on seniors. It is called the Senior Friendly Hospital Plan. Its goal is to optimize the health and well-being of frail and at-risk seniors while they are hospital patients.

In 2011, the Ontario Senior Friendly Hospital Strategy was launched. It identified three priority areas for quality improvement across the province. The strategy aims to:

- Improve the health, well-being and experience of seniors in Ontario hospitals, helping them get back home sooner and healthier
- Improve seniors' ability to live independently and stay out of hospital
- Enhance the value of health care dollars
- Help reduce Alternate Level of Care through supporting people in transition to the right place of care after a hospital stay
- Promote quality improvement initiatives that can be included in hospital Quality Improvement Plans as part of the Excellent Care for All legislation

This year, we are focusing on two key priorities: functional decline in the medical/surgical units and hospital-acquired delirium.

Both of these conditions have the potential to lengthen a stay in hospital or the time to recover. Our work this year will include putting processes in place to provide information for patients and families about how to keep mind and body active, educating staff on the identification of patients at risk for developing delirium, and engaging the Patient and Family Advisory Committees for advice.

All our quality plans build upon our missions as organizations to focus on quality care and lead the way in quality and safety.

For more information about the Quality Improvement Plans and Senior Friendly Hospital Plans please visit our websites at www.agh-fvm.com and www.cpdmh.ca.