

## North Saskatchewan Dementia Assessment Program

### Introduction

The Ministry of Health has provided funding to create a specialty Dementia Assessment Outreach Team and a client short-stay unit located at Parkridge Centre in Saskatoon. Our service area includes Saskatoon and rural communities in northern and central Saskatchewan. The program supports clients and caregivers in managing responsive behaviours related to dementia. Referrals can be generated from the community, acute care, or long-term care homes. The expectations of the northern health regions will be to partner and collaborate with the Outreach Team to ensure resident focused care that follows these key parameters:

- Short stay (up to 90 days)
- Not a permanent placement; must maintain their current living environment
- Not an emergency/crisis service or transitional unit
- Community resources exhausted prior to referral

### Dementia Assessment Outreach Team

The Outreach Team provides support to individuals with a primary diagnosis of dementia who are experiencing responsive behaviours that are not being managed in their current living environment. Referrals are first reviewed by the Outreach Team, with access to geriatric psychiatry, occupational therapy, psychology, and social work. The Outreach Team completes an interdisciplinary assessment and provides intervention recommendations, with the goal of stabilizing responsive behaviours in the client's current location. If behaviours cannot be resolved through outreach services, the team may consider the client for admission to the Dementia Assessment Unit located at Parkridge Centre.



### Dementia Assessment Unit

The Dementia Assessment Unit is a 5-bed secure unit housed within Parkridge Centre in Saskatoon. Services include: assessment, observation, care, and treatment planning for up to 90 days. **In order to access the unit, clients must first be assessed through the Dementia Assessment Outreach Team.** Clients admitted to the Dementia Assessment Unit will be evaluated by a team of interdisciplinary professionals, including geriatric psychiatry, occupational therapy, psychology, social work, pharmacy, recreation therapy, nursing/care staff, and general physician services.

### Referral Criteria

- Primary diagnosis of age-related degenerative dementia with responsive behaviours
- Medically stable
- Require enhanced behavioural support in their current care environment
- Exclusionary Criteria: delirium, primary diagnosis of Acquired Brain Injury

### To make a referral

- Referrals may be generated from the community, acute care, or long-term care
- Any healthcare provider may complete the referral form
- Physician or Nurse Practitioner involvement is essential to facilitate recommendations from the team
- Referral Form available online at [North Saskatchewan Dementia Assessment Outreach Team | SaskHealthAuthority](#)

### Accompanying Documentation

- Completed Behaviour Tracking (Direct Observation System – DOS tool)
- Medication Administration record (MAR), including PRN medications (or list of medications if residing in the community)
- Blood work ( < 3 months) including CBC, Renal and Liver panel, TSH, B12, HgA1c, Blood glucose, Calcium, Urinalysis, Urine C&S
- Most recent LTCF, if residing in long-term care, including Outcome Scales and CAP reports