

Media Release



For Immediate Release

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Shepherd Lodge Highlights International Study to Reduce Skin Breakdowns

Scarborough.... Shepherd Lodge highlighted its involvement with the international study, Turning for Ulcer Reduction (TURN), to CEO of the Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA) Christina Bisanz, as one of the latest examples of the home's approach to achieving quality outcomes for its 252 residents.

TURN focuses on slowing down and potentially stopping incidents of skin breakdown and improving quality of life for residents with limited mobility. The study measures the impact of using high density foam mattresses in combination with other skin care protocols, to reduce the need to turn residents and disrupt their rest and sleep. The study is co-sponsored by the University of Toronto, the University of Texas, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and the American National Institute for Research.

"We are very impressed with the study results to date," said Brock Hall, Shepherd Lodge's Vice President of Client Care Services. "The average skin breakdown in long term care residents is 10%, yet our Accountability Framework indicators show we consistently have less than 7%. With a 30% improvement over the industry norm, residents skin integrity and their satisfaction with being able to sleep though the night undisturbed, is rewarding."

"I want to commend the management and staff of Shepherd Lodge for their innovative and resident focused approach to care," said Ms. Bisanz. "This reflects the commitment to quality improvement that is now the benchmark in long term care homes across the province."

TURN is one of a number of resident focused, evidence based initiatives that has been integral to Shepherd Lodge's approach to meeting resident needs over the past 50 years. In addition to TURN the home is also involved in the Ontario Health Quality Council's Residents First initiative which is now being implemented. The home also implemented a Fall Reduction program.

"We share a common desire to help our residents improve their quality of care and thus their quality of life", said Mr. Hall. "We motivate and support staff to recognize and develop solutions that meet specific resident needs."

Ms. Bisanz, who is touring a number of OLTCA member homes across Ontario, said, "long term care homes are demonstrating that they are the centres of expertise in care for the elderly with complex medical needs, and contributing to a more effective healthcare system for all Ontarians."

OLTCA represents the not-for-profit, charitable, private and municipal operators of 428 long term care homes that provide care and services to some 50,000 residents throughout Ontario.

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