

Introduction

Medical Social Workers provide services in the areas of Acute Care, Long Term Care, Emergency/Outpatient Department, Home Care, and Palliative Care. Support may also be provided for Cancer patients receiving treatments at the local hospitals through the Community Oncology Program of Saskatchewan (COPS).

Acute Care

Emotional, mental, social and environmental factors may impact on an individual's recovery or stay in the hospital. Medical Social Workers may become involved in a patient's care for a variety of reasons, including:

- * Counseling with individuals that are experiencing difficulty coping with a diagnosis, prognosis, physical illness, grief issues, etc.
- * Supporting individuals and families in the Palliative Care Program
- * Screening individuals for referrals to Mental Health and Addiction Services
- * Working with hospital staff to address psychological or social concerns that may impact on the patient's health care needs

- * Discharge Planning—assisting in discharges from Acute Care to the community, a Long Term Care Facility, Personal Care Home, or other care home
- * Contact with spiritual care resources with individual consent
- * Helping individuals access financial support programs primarily related to health benefits
- * Involvement as a patient advocate or representative
- * Participation in Case Conferences/Family Meetings related to patient care
- * Suicide risk assessment and support
- * Working with suspected cases of abuse or domestic violence (i.e. child abuse, spousal abuse/domestic violence and elder abuse)

Medical Social Workers do not have the capacity to investigate cases of child abuse. Reports will be made to the Department of Social Services and the RCMP regarding children where abuse/neglect is suspected.

Long Term Care—Regional

The Medical Social Worker acts as a resident/family advocate while providing support services to residents and their families. These services may include:

- * Pre-admission facility tours
- * Assistance with completion of the applications for Respite/Long Term Care
- * Admission process
- * Counseling—adjustment, crisis, resource, and supportive
- * Assistance with financial planning and management
- * Participation in Case Conferences/Family Meetings related to resident
- * Assistance with completion of an Advance Health Care Directive
- * Assistance with obtaining community resources
- * Discharge planning and follow-up

Confidentiality

Medical Social Workers hold sensitive and personal client/family information in strict confidence, sharing such information outside the treatment team only when requested by law and/or authorized by the client and/or family.