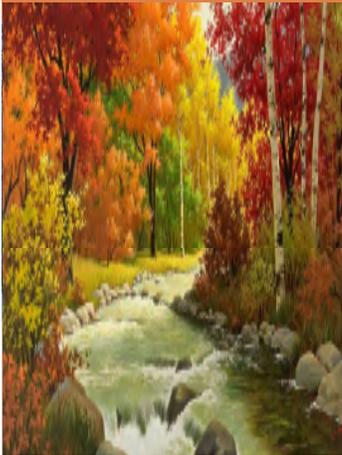


SAFETY FIRST

FALL 2018



VENTA CARE CENTRE

OH&S News

Letter

AUTUMN UPDATE



Goodbye to summer, hello winter? I am sure we are all wondering, what happened to Fall.

Autumn marks the season for reaping the harvests of our growing time. As there are still leaves on the trees, we are blanketed with snow. Venta Care Centre is ready for winter and we hope that you are as well.

Time to recheck those furnaces, put on winter tires, and get the snow shovels out of storage. Secure the outside hose bibs and winterize your homes. Proper footwear, is already necessary as there are slippery sidewalks. Sanding or having some type of snowmelt available is a must for the fluctuating temperatures and slippery conditions, outside your home.

Warm winter gear is one of the most important investments for our climate.

Last week, Calgary had a severe snowstorm, with a record snowfall of 32 centimeters. We heard of stranded drivers on the roads for upwards of 10 hours. Venta Care Centre would like to remind you to get yourself and your loved ones prepared for any emergency that could occur during the winter season. Having warm clothing, food and water in your vehicle for any emergency. Making sure that your gas tank is filled, and perhaps some gasoline antifreeze. Some of the people stranded last week were driving only one hour to their destinations, no spare food, water and many ran out of gasoline.

Hypothermia can be a very serious condition. Making sure that you are properly clothed while outside is a

Venta Care Centre would like to remind you that the front of the building, the road is a designated snow route. When the City of Edmonton issues a Parking Ban this will affect where you park. We try to make sure that we post the Parking Ban so you can find alternate parking in the neighbourhood.

Please be mindful of snow on your footwear, entering the building. For your convenience, please use the boot brush in the front entrance to clean your shoes. A safe floor is important to the Residents and the Employees of Venta Care Centre.

VENTA CARE CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS

Venta Care Centre is very pleased to have completed many updates throughout the facility since the beginning of 2018.

You will notice the new Reception Desk in the front entrance. Venta Care Centre extends a warm greeting to you, a receptionist is available during business hours at the front to handle any questions that you may have and direct you to where you are visiting in the building.



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VENTA CARE CENTRE OH&S

SAFETY CONCERNS ARE IDENTIFIED THROUGH REGULAR HAZARD IDENTIFICATION PROCESSES AND EACH STAFF MEMBER IS RESPONSIBLE TO INFORM MANAGEMENT WHEN THERE IS A BREAKDOWN OF ANY EQUIPMENT OR ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS. FAMILY RESIDENT COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE ANOTHER AVENUE FOR BRINGING GENERAL CONCERNS TO THE MANAGEMENT,, WHICH ARE DEALT WITH ON A DAILY OR WEEKLY BASIS.

SAFETY FIRST

QUALITY ASSURANCE, IMPROVEMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT



Quality of care and safety continue to be a major initiative at Venta Care Centre.

Management routinely observes, audits and gathers information as how to improve and reduce risk, in the delivery of the many services provided to our residents.

Quarterly all beds, wheelchairs, bed alarms, etc. are checked and documented on the status of the equipment. If any piece of equipment requires repair, that item is removed from use and returned as soon as the repairs have been completed for the safety of the resident.

Education is a very important aspect of ensuring all employees are trained properly and given the opportunity to be participants and team members in the facility.

Each year, all employees are required to complete Online Modules, to ensure compliance with the Standards required by Venta Care Centre and Alberta Health Services. Each employee is tracked in the completion of their modules for Performance Appraisals.

Venta Care Centre follows the Standards of Care from Alberta Continuing Care Safety Association, Alberta Health and Wellness, Alberta Health Services, Accommodations Standards, Workman's Compensation Board and Accreditation Canada.

To ensure quality, Venta Care Centre receives regular inspections from Alberta Health Services (Quality Care Audit), Accommodations Standards, PIR/COR, Halls Remedy Pharmacy and Accreditation Canada.

Venta Care Centre has achieved and is recognized as an Accredited Facility with Exemplary Status by Accreditation Canada. Venta Care Centre has attained the highest level of performance, achieving excellence in meeting the requirements of the accreditation program. VCC is proud of the achievements of all Staff to excel to the high standards required for Accreditation. VCC thanks all staff for their continued dedication and excellence in providing care.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY BILL 30

New Legislation has been introduced in Alberta to protect the Employer and the Employee. Changes to the Act took effect June 1, 2018. Venta Care Centre is continuing work on incorporating the new standards.

This will include an updated Code of Rights and Conduct. There will be a formal process if you have an issue regarding rights and conduct

Venta Care Centre has a Health and Safety Committee. The Health and Safety Representatives from all departments meet quarterly

More information can be found on the Government of Alberta website. Due to the depth of information Venta Care Centre recommends that for your knowledge that you review online

Information and bring your concerns and questions to one of the Health and Safety Representatives for further discussion and clarity.

Overview of changes to the Act are available and posted on the OH&S Board across the hall from the 300/400 Nursing Station.

HAND HYGIENE / INFECTION CONTROL/FLU VACCINE

Four Moments of Hand Hygiene Posters are located on the walls throughout the facility. All staff are required to follow these practices to ensure no cross contamination occurs. Resident safety, Employee safety increases when everyone is diligent about Hand Hygiene. For family members and staff, you may access the website for more clarification about Hand Hygiene.

Infection Control throughout the facility is always in motion. From Hand Hygiene, to sanitization of equipment, ensuring that bath tubs are clean, and safe for usage with the next resident. Sanitizing hands from room to room, in between medication delivery and making sure that anyone who might be ill stays away until they are better. Ensuring the food service is monitored and follows safe practice.

Flu vaccines will be available in October. It is recommended that all Residents and Staff be immunized to keep our Residents safe. Visitors and Volunteers are encouraged to receive their vaccines from their Family Doctor or Pharmacist.

Infection Control becomes everyone's responsibility and begins with Hand Hygiene for Residents and Staff.

PROPER MECHANICS FOR PUSHING A WHEELCHAIR

Recommendations for pushing a wheelchair:

Always make sure the brakes are on when the chair is not being pushed.

Make sure your passenger's feet are safely on the footplates with proper footwear, and elbows, all clothing are tucked in for safety.

Look well ahead for possible hazards.

Avoid steep, soft or uneven surfaces as these will make it harder to push or could cause the chair to tip over.

Always let the person in the chair know what you are going to do, such as tilting them or turning quickly.

Do not hang heavy bags on the handles of the chair. This can change the centre of

gravity and cause the chair to tip backwards.

When pushing, be close to the wheelchair, have a straight back and push with your whole body-weight and leg muscles. Keep your arms near your body and elbows bent.

Going down a curb backwards is recommended as it is safer and takes less effort.

Take extreme care when stepping onto a road.

If you need to fold the wheelchair, sharply pull up the seat of the wheelchair in the centre. Flip up the footrests and swing away. Lifting a wheelchair incorrectly can injure your back. Speak with your Nurse for proper instructions, if you are

leaving the facility for an outing.

To unfold the wheelchair, do this by pulling apart the armrests and pushing downwards on the centre of the seat. Reattach footrests and have brakes on while transferring the Resident.



INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Venta Care Centre continues to encourage and promote an incident management and reporting structure throughout the facility.

Encouraging staff to report hazards and near misses, was initiated through education and committee meetings.

Each staff member goes over a hazard assessment form which covers some of

the hazards of their daily routine. Staff members are trained to use the equipment required for their job. Should there be a piece of equipment that breaks down, removing that piece of equipment and making sure that someone does not use it until it is repaired is necessary. There is a process in the facility to identify broken equipment and what happens next.

Any concern or injury needs to be reported. The LPN, or RN on each unit should be contacted and then follow up will happen.

If an employee injury occurs, the employee is responsible to ensure a WCB form is filled out.

EMERGENCY CODES AND CONTINGENCY PLANS

Venta Care Centre follows a set protocol for responding to various threats. These threats would be: if there was a fire in the facility, a missing person, a hazardous spill, cardiac arrest etc. All facilities in Alberta have requirements to respond for the safety of their residents, visitors and staff.

At VCC we provide regular training to respond to various codes. These processes are reviewed and approved by a variety of

Government Agencies. As a fully Accredited Facility, these processes are also reviewed by a National Board to ensure client safety.

A Contingency Plan addresses an event which would require the facility to provide services to our resident, when there may not be any help available from outside services.

If VCC has a power outage, VCC has backup generators that will come on to continue to provide essential power. Backup Oxygen tanks are available and Emergency lighting is available. This plan also includes the provision of a month supply of food and water.

The Emergency Codes and Contingency Plans are available by appointment to review in the Business Office.

VENTA CARE CENTRE

13525-102 STREET
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
T5E-4K3

E-mail: oh&s@ventacarecentre.com

Further Information is available Online for Employees.

Families and Residents have their Admission Handbook with valuable information when they become Residents . Families can also access Online Information.

Venta Care Centre is dedicated in delivering safe, quality care through teamwork and communication. Families and Residents are encouraged to participate in this process.

All employees are reminded to check the Occupational Health and Safety Bulletin Board located by the 300/400 Nursing Station for further updates.

Remember SAFETY is everyone's responsibility!

PREVENTION OF FALLS AT VENTA CARE CENTRE

OH&S would like to take this opportunity to go over falls and fall injury.

1. Falls are more common than strokes and can be just as serious in their consequences.
2. Falls are the most preventable cause of needing nursing home placement.
3. Falls lead to problems with daily activities like dressing, bathing and of course walking.

PREVENTION:

Common treatable health problems and hazards include problems with walking or moving around, medications, foot problems or unsafe footwear, blood pressure dropping too much on getting up, problems seeing, and tripping hazards at home. And the more of these problems a person has, the greater the chance of falling.

Falls from height are often related to the use of ladders but are also related to common workplace factors such as stairs. People lose their balance, slip on poor slip resistant material on the nose of the stair or neglect to use handrails, perhaps because they are carrying something. For this reason Venta does not allow Residents on stairwells.

Proper footwear is a very important decision. For our Residents slippers that fit properly on the foot as opposed to slip on slippers which are a tripping hazard. If you find a Resident with improper footwear please let the Care Coordinator know, a better choice here is to put on a street shoe for

the Resident until the family can bring in proper slippers.

For employees, a proper shoe with full heel and toe coverage is mandatory. Please check the soles for wear and replace as necessary. The life of your shoe will increase if you change into your outside shoes when you come and leave work.

Mindfulness about safety in our environment makes a safer place for Residents to live in and Employees to work in!

