

January 17, 2012

## **ASSESS AND RESTORE PROGRAM EMPOWERING SENIORS TO RETURN HOME SAFELY FROM HOSPITAL**

“We want to live at home” – that is the message that seniors across Erie St. Clair (ESC) have repeatedly told the ESC LHIN; and we’re listening. When a senior is admitted to the hospital, along with the challenge of recovering from their initial illness, they face the additional challenges of deteriorating physical and emotional health. These obstacles significantly decrease the chances that they will be able to return home.

To address these challenges, the ESC LHIN, in partnership with the local CCAC and Leamington District Memorial Hospital (LDMH), launched the Assess and Restore program in January, 2010. This program, based on best practices gleaned from a similar United Kingdom care model, is designed to help frail seniors completely recover from their hospital visit and safely return home. Not only do the seniors regain their independence, but they avoid either admission to long-term care or becoming an Alternate Level of Care (ALC) patient by occupying a hospital-based Complex Continuing Care (CCC) bed.

Since the successful implementation of the Assess and Restore program at LDMH, it has been launched at both Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital and Chatham-Kent Health Alliance - assisting more than 584 patients.

June Melton is one such individual that this program has been able to help return home. June received treatment at the Assess and Restore unit in Leamington and credits the program with giving her back her independence, stating it is a “miracle” that she got home as quickly as she did. Since June was able to gain her independence back through Assess and Restore and return home, she has been able to continue her valuable volunteer work within the community.

Likewise, Ernest Bodechon, also a patient of Leamington’s Assess and Restore program, has been able to return home safely, with additional home supports and follow-ups. Ernest credits the program for his decrease in falls, saying that he used to fall 3 to 4 times a day, and hasn’t yet fallen since coming home from the Assess and Restore program.

The Assess and Restore program is a positive and proactive step in the right direction; a direction that provides our local seniors with the options and tools to help them restore their independence, dignity, and quality of life.

Video Link: [Assess and Restore – Hope, Health and Home](#)

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The Erie St. Clair LHIN is a Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care agency that plans and pays for health care services totaling a billion dollars a year in our region alone – everything from hospitals to Meals on Wheels.

The Erie St. Clair LHIN strives to make the health care system better by understanding and responding to local needs and by getting services to work together more efficiently. That's how we'll all get better health care while saving money and making the system sustainable for our children and grandchildren.



Photo: Patient at the LDMH Assess and Restore program