

# Accessing Publicly Subsidized Long-Term Care Homes



*Determining whether a loved one requires and is eligible for a Long-Term Care Home can be an emotional and difficult time for the individual, their family and friends. Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) hopes the following information will help explain access to publicly-subsidized Care Homes.*

## **What is a Long-Term Care Home and what will the Care Home provide?**

A Long-Term Care Home provides for the needs of people who can no longer care for themselves. Care Homes provide the following services:

- Access to 24 hour professional nursing supervision
- A safe and secure living environment
- Recreational and social activity programs
- Personal care (e.g. assistance with bathing, dressing and managing medications)

Care homes are designed to care for clients with complex care needs, physical and/or mental health conditions who cannot live safely and independently at home.

## **Am I eligible for publicly subsidized Long-Term Care Home?**

Once you, your family, and the health professionals involved in your care have decided you are unable to continue living independently and you agree to apply for Long-Term Care, VCH staff will do a comprehensive assessment of your care needs and determine your eligibility for care in a publicly subsidized care home.

### **To be eligible, you need to:**

- Meet citizenship and provincial residency requirements
- Be 19 years of age or over
- Have been assessed as needing professional nursing supervision
- Agree to the assessment process and sign a release of financial information

### **Other factors that are considered:**

- Your health status and care needs
- Family caregiver's ability to provide care and support in the home
- Use of community resources

## What is the access process for publicly subsidized Long-Term Care Homes?

British Columbia has a standardized approach for timely access to long-term care homes. VCH provides information that enables clients and families to select up to three (3) preferred care homes.

If there are no vacancies in preferred care homes, an interim care home may be offered. Clients retain waitlist positions at preferred care homes while residing at interim care homes. Alternatively, clients may choose to wait at home, with appropriate supports, until one of their preferred care homes is available.

When a vacancy at a preferred care home is offered, clients have the following options:

1. Move to preferred care home
2. Remain at interim care home

Waitlists at other preferred care homes are closed when clients move to a preferred care home or remain at an interim care home.

Your care team takes the following factors into consideration to find an appropriate care home for you:

- How urgently you require care
- Your individual care needs
- Your preferred location
- Availability of spaces in long-term care homes

## Informed Consent

Consent is required for admissions to long-term care homes. If an adult is not capable of providing consent, someone acting on their behalf will be asked to consent



to a specific care home. For more information please visit the [Ministry of Health website](#) or speak with your health care provider

## What is Home First?

Home, with appropriate supports, is the best place for the recuperation from illness or to manage chronic conditions once you no longer require hospital care. When it is appropriate, clients will be discharged Home First, with a plan for using supports in the home. The plan will be created by your health care team and will be discussed with you prior to leaving the hospital. A Home Health Clinician will visit you in your home to see how you are recovering from your hospital stay, and assess your eligibility for long-term care.

If after returning home you change your mind about moving to long-term care, the Clinician will assist you to adjust your support services to meet VCH guidelines and, to explore alternate ways to meet any unmet needs.

## Can I choose where I want to live?

Long-term care homes are a regional resource and access is managed according to geographic area. Once you consent to move into a care home, you will be asked to choose up to 3 preferred care homes. VCH makes every effort to accommodate your requests but cannot guarantee that you will be able to move to your preferred care home right away.

Below is a list of VCH geographic areas and the communities they serve:

- Richmond
- Vancouver
- North Shore (from Deep Cove to Lion's Bay & Bowen Island)
- Sea to Sky Corridor (from Porteau Cove to D'Arcy)
- Sunshine Coast (from Port Mellon to Egmont)
- Powell River (from Saltery Bay to Lund)
- Bella Bella
- Bella Coola

VCH strives to offer clients care homes in their preferred community. However, there may be times where VCH experiences limited care home resources in a particular geographic area. If you are hospitalized when this happens, you may be asked to accept an interim bed in another geographic area, as you will be unable to continue to wait in hospital. Your care team will work closely with you and your family to find the best solution. VCH is committed to helping you move to your preferred community as quickly as possible.

## What will happen when a space in a Long-Term Care Home becomes available?

If you are in hospital, convalescent care, or at home in the community, you will be notified when an appropriate bed has become available. ***If the care home offered to you is one of your preferred locations, you will move within 48 hours. If the care home offered to you is an interim care home, you will move within 72 hours.*** Spaces in publicly subsidized care homes are in high demand, so it is important to move into care homes without any delay.

## What happens if I don't want to move to the Long-Term Care Home that was offered to me?

Clients remaining in hospital after refusing a preferred or interim bed are responsible for the cost of remaining in hospital or convalescent care.

Clients waiting at home who do not accept the interim care home will remain on waitlists for preferred care homes. Home support services will be reassessed.

## What happens if I move into an Interim Bed at a Long-Term Care Home?

Often an interim bed will become available in a care home that is not one of your preferred locations. If this happens, you will remain on the waitlists for your preferred care homes.

Since your needs may change while you are waiting to transfer, your care team will always verify that your preferred care home can provide the level of care you need. If your care needs have changed, your care team will help to find alternate care homes that can meet your needs.

When an appropriate vacancy comes up at your preferred care home you can accept the transfer or you may decide that you want to stay where you are.

## What do I have to pay?

### **Before you move to a Long-Term Care Home:**

Sometimes it takes a while to find an appropriate care home. If you remain in hospital or convalescent care longer than 30 days after being determined eligible for long-term care, you will be charged the “short stay” Long-Term Care user fee as directed by the Ministry of Health. (Note this rate may change with each calendar year).

### **After you move to a Long-Term Care Home:**

Residents pay a monthly fee for accommodation and hospitality services (food, laundry, housekeeping, etc.).

***Care home fees are standardized throughout British Columbia and may be up to 80% of the resident’s after tax income, and for this reason, it is important to have filed a current tax return.***

A financial assessment is part of the overall assessment carried out by the clinician in the hospital or at home. You will be asked to sign a consent form for release of information from Canada Revenue Agency so that the VCH can set the annual rate for your residency. Rate changes typically occur once per year and are based on your income.

***If taxes are not filed, you will be charged the highest rate.*** You will be notified of rate changes as they occur.

Care homes may also charge fees for optional services. Each care home will provide information about any additional costs.

## VCH Introduction to the Long-Term Care Home Guide

Moving to a care home can be a challenging transition for clients, families and other support people. VCH has developed an Introduction to Long-Term Care Handbook <https://vch.eduhealth.ca/PDFs/JB/JB.300.I44.pdf>



For Further Information about Long-Term Care Home Access in Vancouver Coastal Health

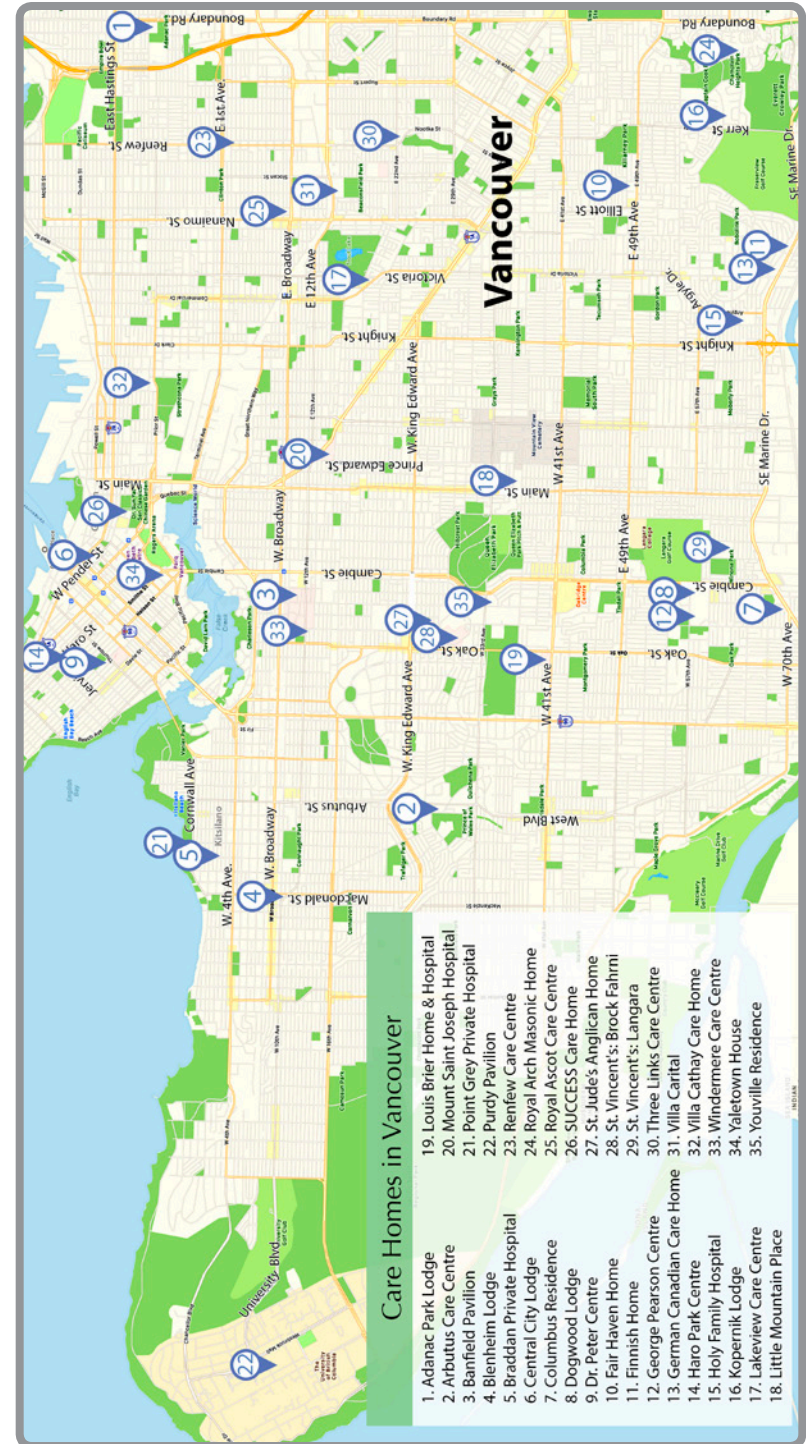
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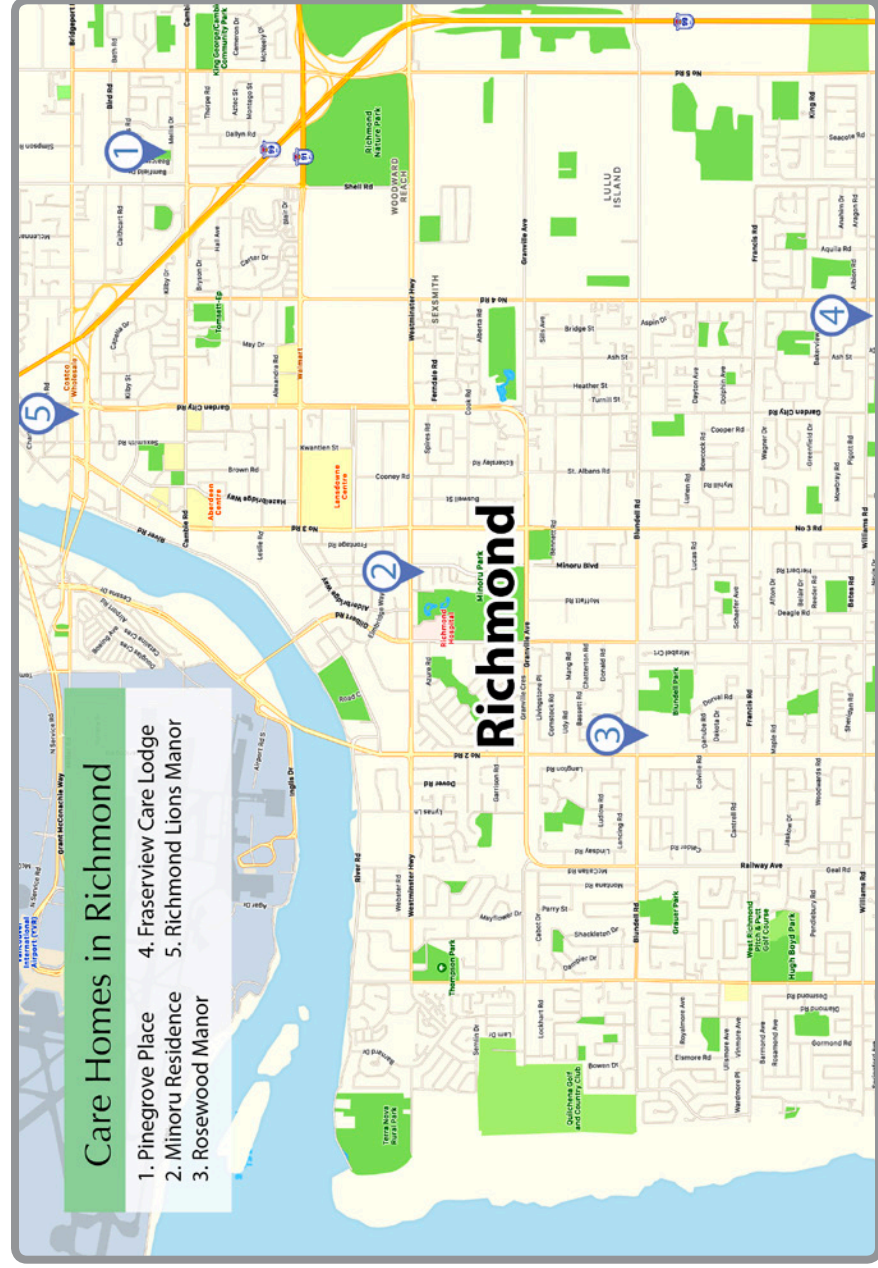
a. **In the community:** your **Home Health Office**

COMMUNITY	PHONE NUMBER
Bella Bella	250-957-2308
Bella Coola	250-799-5339
Gibsons	604-741-0726
North Vancouver	604-983-6700
Pemberton	604-815-6859
Powell River	604-485-3310
Richmond	604-278-3361
Sechelt	604-741-0726
Squamish	604-815-6859
Vancouver	604-263-7377
West Vancouver	604-983-6700
Whistler	604-815-6859

b. **In the hospital:** the **Discharge Planner**

c. See the maps below and visit our website <http://www.vch.ca/your-care/home-community-care/care-options/long-term-care> for details including virtual tours and estimated wait times.









Making better  
decisions together  
with patients  
and families

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For more copies, go online at <http://vch.eduhealth.ca> or email [pchem@vch.ca](mailto:pchem@vch.ca) and quote Catalogue No. **GT.640.A33**

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