PRIORITY HOME SERVICES – Referral Decision Support Tool for Hospital

Priority Home Philosophy – *Priority Home* is a person-centred collaborative philosophy focused on keeping patients– specifically high needs seniors - safe in their homes for as long as possible with community supports. When acute hospital care is required *Priority Home* aims to support patients to return home on discharge, as staying at home is the best and safest solution. Under *Priority Home*, paneling a patient from hospital to a long term care (LTC) bed is considered only after all other community options are considered.

Priority Home Services – To support discharges home within the Priority Home philosophy, Priority Home Services within the WRHA Home Care Program is a service option to consider for patients in hospital. Priority Home Services is a centralized home care service that provides short term, intensive and restorative services to eligible clients for up to 90 days. ***This service is provided to clients who are in hospital who are eligible and/or waiting for long-term care (LTC) placement, or are being considered for placement in a Personal Care Home (PCH).*** This service supports prevention of premature placement to PCH and supports discharge home for LTC paneling and placement in community instead of waiting in hospital.

Who to consider for Priority Home Services:

- Anyone who is being considered to be referred to Long Term Care
- Anyone who is either designated ALC-LTC or being considered for ALC-LTC designation
- Patient where there is potential for premature PCH placement from hospital and for whom an intensive case management / restorative approach may assist with re-examining a return to community
- Patient who can safely wait in the community for LTC placement
- Clients who may need urgent PCH placement from community or Emergency Department / Urgent Care

Who may not be appropriate for Priority Home Services:

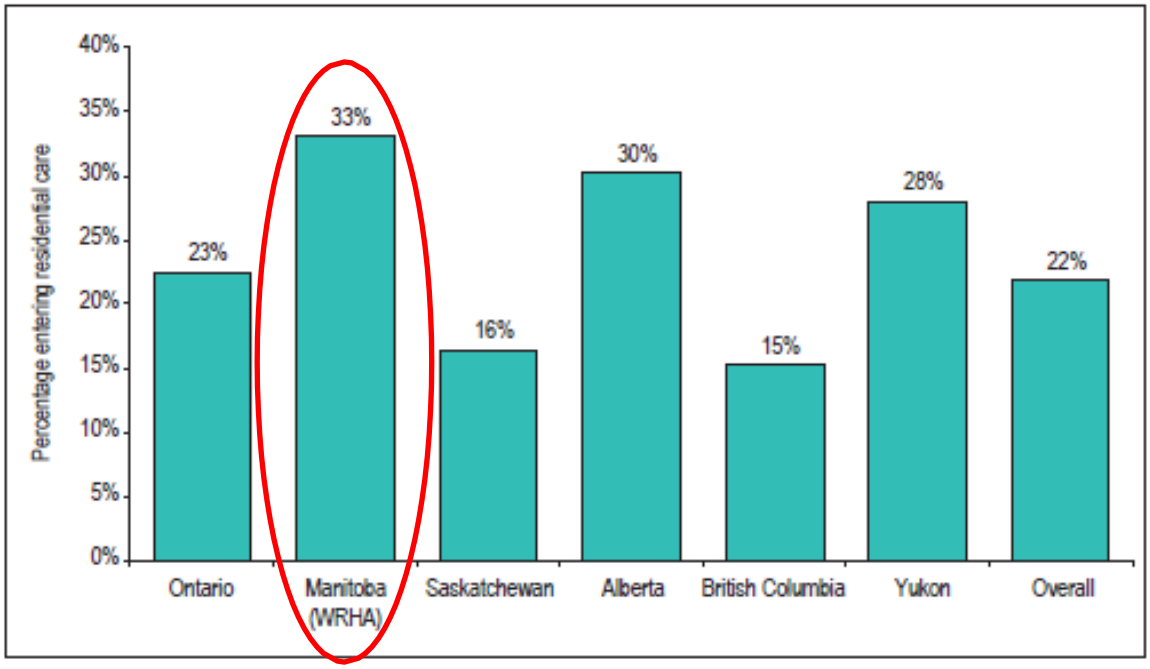
- Patient who is medically unstable
- Patient whose care needs cannot be feasibly or safely met by home care services (e.g., requires 24-hour support and supervision from home care; non-modifiable behaviour that poses a threat to self or others)
- Home Care hospital hold clients as they are already being discharged with regular home care services
- Patient without a home to return to

These clients may be more appropriate for other available services as appropriate until they are ready to return home with Home Care.

Prevention of Premature Placement to Personal Care Home

A recent report by the Canadian institute for Health Information (CIHI)[1] identified that a larger proportion of seniors in Manitoba (WRHA) entered a Personal Care Home when they might have been able to be supported in home care (Figure 1). This is a particular group of patients that Priority Home Services may be able to support for discharge to community if they are being considered for PCH placement while in hospital.

Figure 1: Percentage of seniors entering residential care following initial assessment with low to moderate MAPLe scores*, by jurisdiction (CIHI, 2017)



* **Low to moderate MAPLe scores** are derived from the RAI-Home Care assessment; patients in these categories have:

- **no or lower levels of ADL impairment,**
- **mild or lower cognitive impairment (e.g., MMSE >= 19, or Cognitive Performance Scale Score <= 2),**
- **no behaviour issues,**
- **may require assistance with medication management or meal preparation.**

[1] Canadian Institute for Health Information. *Seniors in Transition: Exploring Pathways Across the Care Continuum*. Ottawa, ON: CIHI; 2017.