

What is the difference between a **retirement community** and a **long term care residence**?



When you hear about retirement residences, you may assume they are the same as long term care homes; however, the two options differ in many ways.

If you have a senior patient who you believe may benefit from more daily support to live well, including the social supports offered in congregate settings, here are some key points of differentiation to consider when making your recommendation:

CARE SUPPORT

Today's retirement residents are equipped to accommodate seniors with varying care needs. Assistance with the activities of daily living, medication management, meals, housekeeping and personal care can be tailored to the unique needs of the individual. Depending on severity, some retirement residences can also safely accommodate seniors living with dementia in dedicated memory care neighbourhoods.

One of the main differentiating factors of a long term care residence is that the older adults who call them home usually require 24-hour nursing support and secure environments to help manage complex medical needs or advanced stages of dementia.

PRIVATE PAY VS. FUNDED CARE

Retirement residences are private-pay, meaning residents are responsible for paying for their monthly rent. In British Columbia, public long term care residences are partially funded by provincial governments, meaning the residents living in them have a portion of their monthly rent subsidized by the government. **However, private-pay long**

term care is also an option in the province, meaning residents are responsible for paying their monthly rent.

MOVE-IN PROCESS

To move into a Chartwell retirement residence, individuals are welcome to inquire about availability at the retirement community they are interested in. A Health & Wellness Manager will meet with the individual inquiring about moving in to design a care and service plan based on their unique needs and preferences. Retirement residences can generally accept new move-ins immediately, with wait times being infrequent and short.

In BC, admission into **funded long term care** is coordinated by the Health Authority Access Coordinator, not directly by long term care homes. Individuals trying to move a loved one into a funded long term care residence may find that once they engage with their local health authority, they will likely have to be put on a waiting list until a suite becomes available.

For more information on the differences between retirement living and long term care and other resources for health care professionals, we invite you to visit chartwell.com/professionals.