

Who Pays for What?



Long-Term Care: “Getting the right information before making a decision is very important”

When Linda Thomson and her mother Margaret first began considering a long-term care home for Margaret, they were concerned that she might have to sell the family home in order to pay for accommodations, Linda recalls.

“It was a relief to find out that wasn’t the case,” she says. “Nobody in Ontario has to sell their home in order to afford long-term care.”

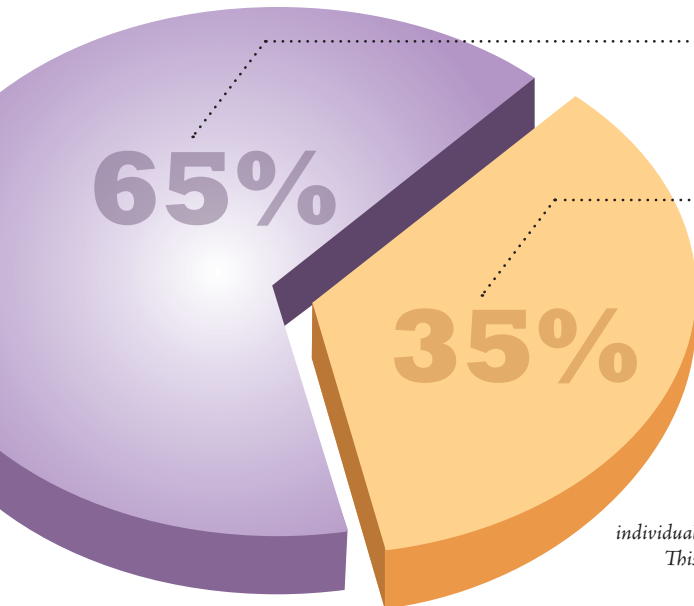
Margaret Thompson lives in Hamilton, Ontario and her daughter Linda lives in Peterborough, Ontario.

A person’s application for admission to a long term care home is based on their medical need, not their ability to pay. Government provides a subsidy for those residents who are unable to afford the full resident co-payment.

“You do have lots of fears and lots of questions, everything from costs to care quality and safety,” Linda says. Getting the right information before making a decision is very important.”

Linda is not alone in experiencing stress and confusion surrounding the difficult decision that people face when the time comes to place someone they love in a long-term care home. Most people,

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PROVINCE - 65%

- 24-hr. nursing and personal care
- recreational and social programs
- support services
- food, etc.

RESIDENT - 35%

- room and board services including:
 - housekeeping
 - furnishings
 - bed linens
 - laundry, etc.

Note: The 65/35 percentage division of funding is based on an average estimated co-payment rate. Homes receive a combined total of \$143.62 per day for each resident (2009). With rate reduction eligibilities, the daily basic rate paid by an individual resident can range from \$33.75 to \$53.07. This does not include preferred accommodation.

understandably, feel unprepared, uninformed, anxious and conflicted.

Some basic facts about Who Pays for What in long-term care.

Long-term care is a provincially regulated program, publicly funded on a cost-shared basis with residents as part of the province’s healthcare program.

Homes are designed for people who need 24-hour nursing care and supervision

in a safe and home-like environment. The province pays for care and related programs and services, approximately two-thirds of the total cost and the resident makes a contribution to room and board type services through a co-payment, approximately one-third of the total cost. (See graph)

The government determines how much care funding it will provide to homes annually. The government also adjusts the co-payment annually based on the inflation rate and this rate is the same for every home.

Residents who cannot afford the full cost of basic accommodation can apply for a rate reduction. Rate reduction forms can be provided by home administrators. Residents must include a copy of their Notice of Assessment (the confirmation sent from Revenue Canada when a tax return is filed) to support their rate reduction application.

If a resident does not move in immediately upon being accepted there is a cost to the resident, over and above the first

month's co-payment, to hold their room for up to five days. (See Table)

With the total funding it receives the home provides nursing and personal care, social and recreational programs, support services, basic accommodation as well as furnishings, meals including special diets, bed linens and laundry, personal hygiene supplies, medical/clinical supplies and devices such as walkers and wheelchairs for occasional use, housekeeping, pastoral services, medication and administration and management.

Optional Accommodations and Services

As an option to the basic accommodation, residents may be able to purchase, at their cost, one of two types of preferred accommodation, a semi-private room or a private room. Preferred accommodation rates are set and regulated by government (see table). (Note: Residents in preferred accommodation are not eligible for rate reductions.)

In addition to the services funded by the government and the co-payment, residents

can purchase additional services that vary from home to home. These include telephone, cable television, transportation, hair care, dry cleaning and other services.

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The Comfort Allowance

Residents with low incomes, who qualify for the highest co-payment rate reduction, retain a monthly comfort of \$128 as of Nov. 1, 2009 from their income source (e.g. pension). This discretionary income can be used by residents for such items as hair care, clothing, transportation, hearing aids, books, gifts, foot care, dental care and drugs.

All applications for long-term care must be made through a Community Care Access Centre (CCAC). To find your CCAC go to: www.ccac-ont.ca

For other information on long term care in Ontario visit: www.health.gov.on.ca www.oltca.com

CURRENT COSTS TO RESIDENTS	
Maximum co-payment for basic accommodation*	\$1,614.21/month
Preferred accommodation costs	
• semi-private	max. \$8/day
• private	max. \$18/day
Cost to the resident to hold their room for up to five days following acceptance for admission	\$53/day

* Effective July 1, 2009