



OANHSS

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The Toronto Star
One Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario M5E 1E6

Letter to the Editor:

Re: Nursing homes take healthier residents over sicker ones, expert charges (Dec. 13)

It is very misleading to state that long term care homes in Ontario cherry-pick easy residents to care for and leave more complex people in hospitals.

There is a highly regulated process governing admissions into homes as dictated by the *Long-Term Care Homes Act* and Regulation, and applications are managed by Community Care Access Centres (CCACs). CCAC placement coordinators determine eligibility; homes cannot arbitrarily decide who they wish to take and who they don't.

There are only two conditions under which a home can refuse an applicant: if it lacks the physical facilities necessary to meet the applicant's care requirements, or the staff of the home lack the nursing expertise necessary to meet the applicant's care requirements.

The refusal process is also highly regimented: the home must give written notice to the applicant, placement coordinator and Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The notice must set out the ground(s) on which the home is withholding approval; a detailed explanation of the supporting facts, as they relate both to the home and to the applicant's condition and requirements for care; and an explanation of how the supporting facts justify the decision to withhold approval.

The vast majority of homes do their very best to take in all applicants, but the reality is that there are going to be situations where the care needs of a senior, particularly someone coming out of hospital, are beyond the capacity of a home. OANHSS continues to work with the government on strategies for ensuring that homes have the necessary staffing and resources to meet demand.

Sincerely,

Donna A. Rubin
Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors