

REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES

In Alberta, nine Regional Health Authorities (RHA) are responsible for the services delivered through hospitals, community health centres, long-term care centres, continuing care facilities, public health programs and home care. They deliver health services in the regions and work with communities to deliver health services to local residents.

The primary responsibilities of each Regional Health Authority is to:

- promote and protect the health of the population within the region, and work to prevent disease and injury
- assess, on an ongoing basis, the health needs of the region
- determine priorities in providing health services in the region, and allocate resources accordingly
- ensure that reasonable access to quality health services is provided in and throughout the region
- promote health services in a way that responds to the needs of individuals and communities and supports the integration of services and facilities in the region
- Report on performance

Single Point of Entry

Admission to the continuing care system in Alberta, which includes Home Care, Continuing Care or Long-Term Care Centres, Community Care Centres and Adult Day Programs, is based on a functional assessment of the individual's need, using the Alberta Assessment and Placement Instrument (AAPI).

The Single Point of Entry (SPE) process, which is currently in use, was developed to provide a single point of access to individuals seeking facility or community-based long-term care.

Referrals for facility-based care and home care come from many sources including family members, friends, doctors and the person themselves. Once the referral is made, the RHA's home care nurse meets with the individual, usually in his/her own home. The health professional discusses the individual's strengths and needs, and the needs of the individual's informal support system.

On the basis of assessed need, a service plan is created for eligible individuals identifying the professional and support services required. If a facility placement is contemplated, the AAPI is submitted to the Long Term Care Facility Placement Committee of the region for approval and the individual's name would be placed on the list for admission to an appropriate facility.

Clients are asked for their preference regarding long-term care home placement (up to 3 choices). If the situation is urgent, the client could be asked to take the next available bed and would remain there until a bed became available at their preferred location. If the client requests placement in another region, the home region contacts the requested region to action and jointly co-ordinate the transfer.

Contacting Your Local Regional Health Authority

Chinook Regional Health Authority (Region 1)
Lethbridge
403-382-6009

Palliser Health Region (Region 2)
Medicine Hat
403-529-8042

Calgary Health Region (Region 3)
Calgary
403-943-1110

David Thompson Regional Health Authority (Region 4)
Red Deer
403-341-8622

East Central Health (Region 5)
Camrose
780-608-8800

Capital Health (Region 6)
Edmonton
780-407-8004

Aspen Regional Health Authority (Region 7)
Westlock
780-349-8705

Peace Country Health (Region 8)
Grand Prairie
780-538-5387

Northern Lights Health Region (Region 9)
Fort McMurray
780-791-6024

Source: The Care Guide (www.thecareguide.com)