

Ontario Health Coalition

HEALTH
FACTS
CHRONIC
CARE

Chronic Care Fact Sheet

Chronic care is in for the fight of its life. That's because the government is intent on providing cheaper and cheaper care. They're closing more than 3500 Chronic Care beds. The real plans call for many of these most vulnerable patients to be dumped into much cheaper long-term care.

Here's a quick look at the differences:

Chronic Care	Long Term Care
Covered under the Canada Health Act	Not covered
\$200+ per day per bed funding	Only \$90
4-11 hours of nursing care per day	No minimum
8 doctors' visits per month under OHIP	Only 4 per month
Therapeutic care provided as needed such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Language Pathology	Limited Care
Drugs provided	Drugs not covered
Dental care provided	Dental not covered

As you can see, Chronic Care patients are going to be hit with many new health bills that they will have to pay out of their own pocket to supplement the missing care. Others, who can't afford it, will see their health compromised.

Runnymede, Riverdale, St. Joseph's (Thunder Bay) and St. Peter's (Hamilton) are being closed as Chronic Care hospitals and downgraded to long-term care centres. As is shown above, there's a big difference between the two. We must demand that the beds continue to be fully funded at the Chronic Care levels of \$200+/day with full services, staffing and full OHIP coverage.

But we know that's not what the Tories have in mind. They're only interested in discount care

LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

- **Tories have eliminated the minimum staffing standards for nursing home which ensured that residents get at least 2.25 hours of nursing care per day; meanwhile, government funding cuts and hospital closures mean that most residents now require 3.5 hours/day or more**

- **Tories have eliminated requirement for a Registered Nurse to be present in a nursing home at all times**
- **Chronic Care patients dumped into long-term care beds to get much less care**
- **\$1.2 billion boom for big business: 70% of the first 6700 beds were awarded to big, for-profit companies like Extendicare, Versa Care and Leisureworld**
- **Patients forced to pay out of their own pockets to supplement missing care**
- **18,000+ people on waiting lists but Tory plans only to be completed by 2004**

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