

Home-Based Care Highlights

Summer 2025

ISSUE #3



Exciting news! Home-Based Care Bags have landed. Swing by your site if you haven't snagged yours yet!



EAST PRINCE HOME CARE STAFF DISPLAY THEIR NEW BAGS

L-R: Jamie Richard, Jackelyn Mundy, Whitney Profit and Nicole Ellis

As summer rolls in, we hope you find moments to relax and enjoy the warmth.

Health PEI's Employee Wellness Team invited all staff to join the 2025 Step Challenge.

Submit your steps to hpeiemployeeewellness@ihis.org by July 3 for a chance to win some prizes.



Teamwork on the Trail!

Some of the rehab team from **Prince County Home Care** recently saddled up for a visit to Grand River Ranch. Not only did they learn about this great local resource for clients but strengthened their team spirit along the way.

Kudos to **Monica Bondre** for making this awesome opportunity happen!

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Shout out to
Sarah Edwards

Sarah helped to create the new Home-Based Care logo that is featured on the new bags and will be found on all Home-Based Care documents going forward.

Sarah is a RN who works casually as the techno wiz supporting a range of education matters such as Moodle, AlayaCare Training Education, Infographic development, etc.

Staff Engagement, Education & Wellness

We have reviewed the staff survey results and created a new calendar for the year ahead. Some of the exciting upcoming events include:

July- Holman's Ice Cream

- Montague/ Souris -**July 8th**
- East Prince/ West Prince / Geriatrics– **July 9th**
- Queens / Palliative Care Center/ Geriatrics -**July 10th**

August- BBQ- Dates TBD

Stay tuned for an upcoming infographic with all the details for your local office!

Provincial staff are welcome to join whichever location works best.



The **final** online **Violence Assessment Tool (VAT)** training session will be held **July 10th 2:30-4:00 PM**. Prior to attending the education session, please watch [this video](#). [Click here](#) to join the session.

Med Rec: June 19, 2:30-3:30 PM

MAP: July 3, 1:30-4:00 PM

Dementia 101 and 102: Fall dates tbd

NEW EDUCATION

There is a new section related to [Professional Boundaries and Ethics](#) in Home Care Resources on Moodle. With permission from the Nova Scotia Health Ethics Network, it links to their [Edible Ethics Sessions](#). Check out this series of “bite-sized” ethics sessions for all staff.

Don't forget to complete your annual [Hand Hygiene](#) module for 2025.
Next audit will be completed in August.

Self-Managed Care

Since **February 2023**, the Provincial Home Care Program has been offering self-managed care. The program provides an option for home care clients to hire their own independent providers, providing flexibility in their home support, personal care, and respite services. The program started with two clients, adding additional spaces as funding permitted. Participation continues to steadily increase, with **over 135 individuals** currently supported.

Four evaluations have been completed since 2023, all showing high client/caregiver satisfaction and significant potential savings for the health system. [The 2025-26 Provincial Budget](#) includes funding to make the Self-Managed Care program **permanent** (and expand the At Home Caregiver Benefit program) and, as of May, a new Provincial LPN role has been added to support the program provincially.

“Have the program available earlier. I had hardly slept for eight weeks looking after my mother before the program was available to me. Both myself & my husband are seniors and couldn't afford \$20.00 fees to hire people for respite for 8-10hours night shift. This program completely made providing home care for my mother a game changer on my own health. Without this program, I was heading for a physical breakdown due to the fact my mother was not sleeping during the nights. This program came to my rescue.”

Family Member of Self-Managed Care Client

Clients have highlighted the following aspects of the program as most helpful:

- Financial support
- Ability to remain home as desired
- Reduced burden on family/primary care partner (ability to sleep at night, work, get a break or participate in meaningful/rejuvenation activities in a 24/7 caregiving situation)
- Ability to decide best help/needs for care at home and be part of the caregiver vetting process
- Easy access, communication, and support to supplement Provincial Home Care support

For more information, check out the [infographic on Moodle](#)

Provincial Geriatric Program

The Dementia Specialty Team, which launched in the fall of 2024, is expanding to include a second OT position. This will allow the team to cover the Island more successfully, provide more education to our staff in multiple parts of the system, and to support People Living with Dementia (PLWD) and care-partners more effectively. This position will be based in Summerside, covering Prince and parts of Queens while Julie Dennis will focus on Charlottetown, Queens and Kings County. We would like to welcome Karen Nabuurs to this position, starting in July 2025.

Provincial Palliative Care Programs



These Home-Based Care staff were highlighted during **Hospice Palliative Care week** (May 4 -10).



“Be Prepared: Palliative Care Emergencies in the Home” Conversation Guides

Developed by the Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA) and the Montreal Institute of Palliative Care, these guides support nurses in managing palliative care emergencies at home, including:

- dyspnea (breathing)
- hypercalcemia (balance)
- massive hemorrhage (bleeding)
- seizures (brain)
- spinal cord compression (bones)
- superior vena cava obstruction (blockage)



Each guide includes:

- **A Conversation Checklist** - Step-by-step guidance for nurses to facilitate difficult conversations.
 - **Emergency Reference Sheets** - Detailed information on each palliative care emergency, including the condition's underlying mechanisms, signs and symptoms, risk factors, treatment options and conversation tips for engaging both patients and caregivers.
 - **Patient and Caregiver Tool** - Practical advice for managing emergencies at home and a straightforward overview of the condition, symptoms, and guidelines on when to contact their healthcare team.
- These guides are currently in use by Home Care and are available to all on the [Palliative Care Page of the Staff Resource Centre](#).

French Services/ Official Languages Recognition Program (OLRP)

Our journey towards Accreditation Canada's OLRP Level 2 has begun - stay tuned for updates. For more information or questions, please contact Lisa Gotell lgotell@ihis.org



Operations & Innovations

Keep your work phone updated

To access the latest AlayaCare features and improvements, ensure your work phone is running the most recent operating system.

Current version: iOS 18.3.

To enable automatic updates:

1. Open the settings icon on your phone.
2. Scroll to the App Store and tap to open

3. Make sure that the following are toggled **on** (green):

- *App updates
- * In app content
- *Automatic downloads

4. Hit the > to the right of the **App Downloads** and select Always Allow.

*For step-by-step visuals, refer to the May 15th **Release Notes**.*

Quality Improvement

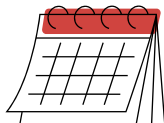
Quality and Patient Safety Learning Exchange

Home-Based Care featured prominently at the May 29th Learning Exchange. Kudos to **Sue Doucette** and **Mallory Peters** for presenting the new **Palliative Care Conversation Guides**, and to all staff who contributed. We also appreciate the teams behind the **Vascular Care** and **System Workflow and Tactics (SWAT) Initiatives** for their featured work.

Next Learning Exchange:

October 30th, 2025

Credit Union Place in Summerside



Interested in presenting your quality improvement or patient safety project? Contact our Quality Patient Safety Consultant, [Jean Baker](#).

More details coming soon - this is a great opportunity to showcase your important work!

Check out the Virtual Quality Board on Moodle to identify one Required Organizational Practice (ROP) from Home Care and Palliative Care. [Submit your response online](#) for a chance to win a \$25 gift card

Quality Boards

In addition to Quality Boards at each site, we are developing a **Virtual Home-Based Care Quality Board** on [Moodle](#). It will build and evolve over time as a hub for the work of the **Home Care and Palliative Care Quality Improvement Teams**. Check it regularly for new information, particularly as we move towards Accreditation 2026. The Accreditation Canada site survey will be held June 7-12, 2026.

Thanks for reading!