

**Appendix F**

**St. Joseph's Continuing Care Centre**  
**Medically Complex Unit**

**Service Definition:**

A CCC based program that serves the needs of adults living with a chronic or progressive condition, and whose potential for improvement is limited. These individuals have multiple comorbidities and interventions that cannot be accommodated in the community or long-term care setting. This population may also include individuals requiring more than 12 weeks of slow-paced rehabilitation, or those who meet the program criteria and require palliation. The interprofessional team works with patients and their families to develop and strive for goals that support quality of life, maintain maximum functional ability, and address short-term and long-term care needs.

**Service Description:**

Length of Stay	Determined on a case-by-case basis
Therapy Schedule	Based on individual goals and ability to participate in therapy activities.
Population Served	Individuals 18 years of age and older
Interprofessional team	Physicians, Nurses, Pharmacist, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Recreation Therapy, Dietitian, Social Worker, Speech Language Pathologist, Spiritual Health Practitioner

**Services Provided:**

- Oxygen therapy
- Tracheostomy care
- Deep suctioning
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)
- Peritoneal dialysis
- Hemodialysis
- Continuous bladder irrigation
- Complex wound care
- Intravenous medication and fluid administration
- PICC lines, port-a-caths, Hickman catheters, AV dialysis catheters
- Pain and symptom management
- Collection and analysis of blood specimens during and outside of regular business hours

**Inclusion Criteria:**

- Medically stable as demonstrated by the following:
  - Clinical course of the patient is largely predictable,
  - A clear diagnosis and co-morbidities have been established, treated, and managed,
  - At the time of discharge from acute care, acute medical issues have been addressed,
  - Disease processes and/or impairments are not precluding participation in the program,
  - Patient's vital signs are stable or as expected,
  - No undetermined medical issues (e.g. not yet diagnosed) exist that preclude care in post-acute settings (e.g. excessive shortness of breath, falls, CHF),
  - C-PAP, BiPAP settings are stable and manageable in the community/post-acute setting,
  - Medication needs have been determined, are deemed effective and are manageable in the community/post-acute setting,
  - Oxygen weaning and trach discontinuation is complete or manageable in the community/post-acute setting,

- Footnote: Palliative care patients may be excluded from the definition of medical stability.
- Have care needs that cannot be met through community services or in a long-term care facility;

**Exclusion Criteria:**

Applicants with one or more of the following potential exclusion criteria will be considered on an individual basis to determine his/her appropriateness for the program:

- Unstable medical, psychiatric, or addictions condition requiring acute intervention,
- Medical, psychiatric, or addiction care needs that can be accommodated in a less restrictive environment
- Require 1:1 supervision related to responsive behaviours (unless there is third party funding arranged prior to admission); or
- Severe behavioural problems that pose a threat to themselves or others.

**Discharge Criteria:**

- Admission plan of care goals have been met or resolved;
- Discharge planning has been initiated by the patient or family;
- The patient's condition becomes unstable and transfer to another facility is necessary to meet his/her medical needs; or
- Admission plan of care goals have not been met but patient can be referred to another agency or facility to meet his/her needs.