

Medical Director Report to 2022 Annual General Meeting For April 2021 - March 2022 Medical Director: Dr. Moosa Fadhel

Resident Age Range: 34-101

Number of Admissions: 22

Number Deceased: 15

In April 2021, Dr. Nideoba retired from his position as Medical Director and was succeeded by Dr. Fadhel. Additionally, Dr. Niedra resigned and her patients were redistributed amongst Dr. Fadhel and Dr. Krystolovich. The call schedule was divided between the two remaining physicians and we have been providing 24-7 coverage since then. The physicians continue to attend annual multidisciplinary care conferences, meet with families when required and participate in the Professional Advisory Committee meetings.

We continue to search for a third physician to complete our team. We had a small number of applications and conducted 2 interviews but did not find a candidate that would fit well into the current team. At this time, we endeavor to continue our search.

When required, Dr. Francesca Cheung (dermatologist) and Dr. Michael Kugelmass (psycho-geriatrician) are available for consultation. Michelle Searle, our dietician is available regularly for nutrition based concerns and pharmacy services continue to be provided by Geriatrix.

We hired Kristine Lorbergs, an advanced practice nurse (APN) with several decades of experience in mental healthcare to work with our residents in order to assess and provide suggestions regarding management of mental health conditions. This has improved the assessment and constant re-evaluation of mental well-being and as she is fluent in Latvian, also provided some comfort and reassurance to our residents.

The Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meets virtually on a quarterly basis and is attended by the various members of the medical staff as well as the Executive Director, Director of Care and York Region Public Health representatives. The Committee reviews updates and trends from the practitioners, reviews any policies as needed and discusses any relevant resident issues and concerns. During this reporting period, we reviewed COVID outbreaks, infection prevention and control and discussed updated guidelines regarding prescribing of specific medicines and their indications.

Decreasing the use of antipsychotic medicines was successfully achieved during this period by initiating quarterly antipsychotic re-assessments for physicians to regularly re-evaluate the usage and appropriateness of antipsychotic use. Where appropriate, physicians decreased or eliminated the usage of these medicines and as a result, Kristus Darzs was able to reduce overall antipsychotic use and go below the provincial average.

We implemented a new standardized set of orders for patients who were deemed palliative in order to ensure a uniformed approach to patient care towards the end of life. Prior to this, the different physicians would order a unique set of orders which was more confusing for nursing staff and resulted in more variation in patient care.

The Medical Director also trained multiple nurses to flush the ears of residents in order to remove excess wax that would cause decreased hearing. Residents are now able to have this issue resolved in a timely fashion instead of waiting for the weekly rounds of their physician in order to get relief from this issue.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a major effect on the daily life of residents during this period with 1 proper outbreak that occurred between December 20th and Feb 15th. During this time, we had many residents and staff suffer from mild to moderate symptoms. An observable decrease in mental well-being was clear to see and was worsened by staffing shortages. With most residents and many staff members being immunized with 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccines, it is clear that the pandemic is changing course for the better. We anticipate new challenges in the coming year related to ethical and logistical issues in the Home. Most recently, we reviewed the medical literature regarding vaccine efficacy and safety, formally updated our immunization policy and provided feedback to the families of our residents.

Dr. Moosa Fadhel
Medical Director
Kristus Darzs Latvian Home
April 2022