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INFORMATION BULLETIN

Can You Be Forced To Pay A Co-Payment By Hospitals If You Are An Alternate Level Care Patient?

Many families are being forced to place loved ones in long-term care institutions when the first available bed comes up. They are told they will be required to pay steep hospital fees if they do not accept the bed. But is this true?

Here is what the Ministry of Health has to say.

- If your loved one has medical complexities and requires specialized services, especially over an extended period of time because of a long term illness or disability that requires skilled, technology-based care not available in the home or in a LTC facility, they may qualify as a chronic care or complex care patient. The attending physician can make this determination.
- If they do, they would be charged a monthly co-payment fee (usually in the area of \$1800.00 a month) for room and board.
- Patients designated Alternate Level of Care (ALC) who are waiting to return home with home care or to go to a long-term care facility are not all charged chronic care co-payment fees. If patients have an immediate or longer term discharge destination in the community, and are waiting to be transferred to a short stay Convalescent Care Program bed, to Home care, supportive housing or other care in the community, they cannot be charged the co-payment fee.
- The chronic care co-payment also does not apply to ALC patients destined for a rehabilitation or complex continuing care bed in hospital. If the attending physician determines that the person will ultimately be discharged to the community following a stay in a rehabilitation or complex care bed the co-payment does not apply.
- There is no absolute number of days for an expected length of stay or time on a wait list that triggers the application of the chronic care co-payment.
- Patients receiving palliative care in hospital as determined by the attending physician are also not charged the co-payment.
- Maximum chronic care co-payments are set out in regulation.
- Only those considered to be permanent residents of a hospital by their attending physician can be charged a co-payment fee. They are also eligible for a comfort allowance.

- As an example Grace Hospital in Toronto charges a daily maximum co-payment fee of \$62.18 or \$1891.31 a month based on income, and subsidies are available to those of low income. Private accommodation is \$85.00/day; semi-private \$50.00/day.
<https://www.torontograce.org/programs-services/complex-continuing-care/>

Source:

<https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/publications/chronic/chronic.aspx#waitlist>