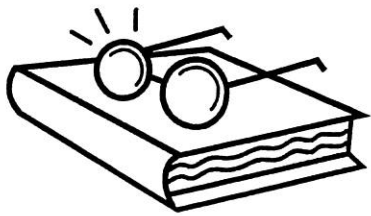


ACCESSING INDEPENDENT CARE PROVIDERS



Accessing Independent Service Providers

You may choose to hire Independent Service Providers to enhance the services that Carewest provides. This may include hiring a paid companion, foot care nurse or podiatrist, or eye/dental services. In accordance with the Alberta Seniors and Community Supports Accommodation Standards, these arrangements must be made independently of Carewest's involvement. The Telus Yellow Pages is the best place to locate the various Independent Service Providers. Here however, are some helpful questions you may want to ask when looking for an Independent Service Providers.



Questions to ask when looking for a Foot Care specialist

1. Ask if they have special training to provide special foot care services.
2. Ask about the cost of the foot care service. Podiatrists are able to bill Alberta Health Services for a portion of the cost.
3. Ask if you need to take your family member to an office or will they come to the Care centre.
4. If foot care is going to be provided at the centre, ask if the travel cost is included in the treatment fee.
5. Ask if the provider follows Alberta health Services infection control standards which include specified cleaning processes and the practice of using one set of instruments for each person. Note: Your choice of foot care specialist must provide written notice of their cleaning process to you and a copy of their process must be forwarded to the Client Service Manager.
6. A foot care provider should provide their services every 5 – 6 weeks. Ask them if they are able to do so.



Questions to ask when looking for Dental services

1. Ask if there is a mobile professional who could provide some of the care at the centre and if so what that would cost.
2. Ask if sedation available for your family member during dental procedures.
3. If your family member has dementia, a dental visit may result in them becoming agitated or uncooperative during dental procedures. Ask if the dentist prepared to deal with this situation.

Many seniors have access to funding for dental care through Alberta Seniors Benefit and Blue Cross. To learn more, contact Alberta Seniors Benefit at:

Toll-free in Alberta 1-800-642-3853 or through an internet search at www.seniors.gov.ab.ca financial assistance.

The Foothills Medical Dental Centre specifically supports individuals with medical/physical and/or mental health conditions. A referral is required.

Foothills Medical Dental Centre
1403 29th St. NW
Calgary AB

Phone: (430) 283-5260



Questions to ask when looking for Optometry services

1. Ask if there is a mobile professional who could provide an eye exam at the centre and if so what that would cost.
2. If your family member has dementia, an eye exam may be difficult and result in them becoming agitated or uncooperative. Ask if the Optometrist is prepared to deal with this situation.

Questions to ask when looking for a paid companion or Independent Care Provider

Carewest does not recommend any specific companion services.

Should you wish to hire an Independent Care Provider a completed “Request to bring in Independent Care provider Service” form must be completed and returned to your Client Service Manager.

- Ask if the individual has a current Police record check and obtain a copy.
- Ask for references.
- Ask what the cost for service is. Pricing varies greatly as some care provider’s work independently and others are provided by larger service.
- Ask if the companion will provide transportation for outings and are they adequately insured.
- Ask if the companions will make handibus arrangements for outings.
- Ask what level of First Aid training the companion has and request a copy.

