WRHA Geriatric Outreach Teams

MYTHS AND FACTS

MYTH:
Outreach Teams provide treatment, therapy or counselling

FACT: The Geriatric Outreach Teams do comprehensive in home assessments and provide recommendations to the Primary Care Provider (PCP) and help connect people to resources that will be able to provide ongoing support or intervention as required

MYTH:
Outreach Teams set up Home Care services

FACT: If people need supports in the home like bathing, medication etc. a referral directly to homecare is appropriate. Home Care will assess for needs and criteria and put services in place.

MYTH:
Outreach Teams do capacity assessments

FACT: For wills and Power of Attorney, the lawyer should assess capacity. The PCP should be the first stop for medical capacity assessment otherwise, referral to outpatient psychiatry by MD or Geriatric Clinic may be other options. Capacity Assessment is done by a physician and though the outreach teams work with doctors, they are not doctors and this is not generally in the scope of the program.

MYTH:
Outreach Teams assess for long term care placement

FACT: Assessment for Long Term Care or Supportive housing is done by the Long Term Care Access Centre Navigators. We assess a person's living situation and make recommendations for safety but we do not control any disposition decisions.

MYTH:
Outreach teams do well-being follow up visits with no identified concern

FACT: Although we would love to check in on everyone, we do need an identified concern in the referral. Please give us some information about your concern and avoid just writing "please assess" as the question for the team. :)

MYTH:
Outreach teams are urgent response teams

FACT: Our wait time for a visit is often less than many other services, but we are not an urgent service and may be booking a month or two away.

MYTH:
Outreach teams will do an assessment on people who don't want help

FACT: We need consent to do a visit and assessment. When people hear that our purpose is to help them live safely and independently as long as possible, they are usually agreeable, but we will not force an assessment upon someone.

If you are unsure about whether or not the Geriatric Program Assessment Team or Geriatric Mental Health Team are the right fit, please call to talk to the manager, the educator (or your area clinician if you know them already). Call the intake desk to reach the manager or educator: **204- 982-0140** and we can help find the right resource.