



BEHAVIOURAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST (BSS)

What is the Behavioural Support Specialist (BSS)?

Funded by the Toronto Central LHIN, the BSS is a clinician role uniquely situated to support individuals with responsive behaviours in both hospital and long-term care settings. The BSS provides short-term, intensive support (5 visits) to aid in their acceptance (and possible transition) into LTC, and/or work with the hospital teams re: management strategies, and discharge goals.

How can the BSS help in hospital?

Address responsive behaviours, by:

- Meeting with various team members to understand current concerns and goals.
- Reviewing clinical documentation to elicit behavioural patterns, triggers and existent strategies.
- Observe the patient (and staff) at varied times.
- Collaborate with staff to trial out new or novel approaches.
- Prepare a cumulative BSS Report which can be uploaded to RM&R and sent to prospective LTCs
- Collaborate with CCAC to follow up with LTC to advocate placement.
- Offer input to clinical team or CCAC re: alternatives to LTC when necessary (e.g. BSU, CASS units)

If patient is under 65, we can also offer transitional support and ongoing follow-up to the LTC:

- In-person presence on day of the move
- Up to 5 visits of additional support
- Referrals and collaboration to LTC consultant teams (GMHOT, PRC, BSOT)

What is the eligibility criteria?

Age:

- **45+** (under 45 will be on case-by-case basis)
- ALC or at high-risk of becoming ALC

Diagnosis:

- Dementia
- Severe and persistent mental illness
- Developmental or Intellectual Disability
- Addiction
- Mental health symptoms secondary to organic condition (CVA, ABI etc.)

Presentation:

- Persons who demonstrate complex and challenging behaviours that result in rejection to LTC, or barriers to discharge.

Examples may include:

- Resistance to care
- Physical or verbal aggression
- Self-injurious behaviours
- Chronic impulsivity, unpredictability and demonstration of lack of judgment
- Frequent wandering and exit-seeking
- Attention seeking
- Hoarding
- Frequent, inappropriate sexual behaviours



Referral form available:

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We will be happy to send you the referral form

The BSS is based out of:

University Health Network

Toronto Western Hospital

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