



School of Health Information Science

Seminar:

Virtual Care in LTC



Speaker:

Philip Freisen

Director, LTC O/O Operations—Island Health

April 10 on Zoom

12:00PM PT

Our infrastructure for many of our Long-Term Care (LTC) homes is out of date, staffing shortages are rampant, and demand keeps growing thanks to an aging demographic, with Canada projecting a need for over 30,000 beds over the coming years. COVID-19 has necessitated greater adoption of virtual care delivery models. Virtual care services are now a reality and have expanded since COVID-19. In long-term health, virtual care can help people stay at their site, help with short staffing levels, support rural/remote sites, and avoid a hospital visit. Virtual care consists of remote interactions between older persons, families and healthcare teams using technology to support communication and information exchange. Team-based care planning is a critical concept to translate into virtual interventions, as it can improve older person outcomes and the well-being of the resident. VR is another tool to help for dementia care, improve mood & memory and decrease agitation among residents. Virtual Care (and other virtual tools) will continue to grow in LTC settings and will also keep people at home longer before having to go into LTC.

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