

Behavioural Supports in Acute Care: Collective Voices Leading to Key Recommendations

In February 2020, the BSO Acute Care Collaborative released *Behavioural Supports in Acute Care – Current Practices and Opportunities for Growth*; a survey intended to provide a snapshot of current practices, gaps and opportunities for growth within acute care hospitals in supporting older adults living with, or at risk of, responsive behaviours/personal expressions. Review and analysis of these survey results have led to the identification of key themes and the following recommendations from the BSO Acute Care Collaborative:

Capacity Building



Invest in capacity building in relation to the behavioural health of older adults for all acute care team members. Ensure policies, procedures and standard assessments/treatments reflect best and emerging practices regarding the care of older adults with, or at risk of, responsive behaviours/personal expressions

System Level Lens – Interagency/ Interdisciplinary Collaboration



Strengthen interagency and cross-sector collaboration in order to support older adults with, or at risk of, responsive behaviours/personal expressions within the community to avoid unnecessary hospital visits/admissions and during periods of transition in and out of acute care.

Adequate Resources



Be flexible and responsive with health human resource support when caring for older adults with responsive behaviours/personal expressions (e.g. providing 1:1 support when there are behaviours/expressions posing risk to self or others).

Meaningful Engagement



Invest in additional health human resources and materials to support meaningful engagement, and implement standardized processes to gather and utilize personhood information in order to promote meaningful engagement within acute care for those with, or at risk of, responsive behaviours/personal expressions.

Specialized Team Members/Services



Increase investment in behavioural health teams to ensure that all acute care organizations have access to these specialized team members. This may include embedded BSO acute care clinicians, Behavioural Support in Acute Care Mobile Teams or BSO in the Community Teams.

Purpose Built Environment



Complete physical environmental assessments within acute care, taking into account the unique needs and abilities of older adults with, or at risk of, responsive behaviours/personal expressions, and make modifications based on these assessments



Person & Family Partnered Care

Commit to, and embrace person and family-partnered care as an essential approach to best care for those with, or at risk of, responsive behaviours/personal expressions, and gather formal feedback from older adults and family care partners in order to inform quality improvement in acute care organizations.

Read the full report here: <https://brainxchange.ca/Public/BSO/Files/Acute/BSO-Acute-Care-Survey-REPORT-FINAL.aspx>



Contact us