

## **GLOSSARY OF HEALTH CARE TERMS.**

Here are definitions for some of the more commonly used words in health care courtesy of the Surrey Memorial Hospital Foundation newsletter.

### **Primary Care.**

This is usually a person's first encounter with the health care system. It may be a visit to a family doctor or advice on health and disease prevention. Primary care is provided by ongoing visits to the doctor for the treatment of minor illnesses or injuries. It also includes the support and recovery care received from other health care services in the community.

### **Acute Care.**

Care provided for people who are seriously ill or injured. These patients require 24-hour medical care from a health care team of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, nutritionists, and more. They also need sophisticated diagnostic and treatment services such as x-ray, ultrasound and many different laboratory tests.

### **Sub-Acute Care**

Patients who require sub-acute care are no longer seriously ill and their course of medical treatment has been set up. However they do require time to recover before returning home. They no longer need intense medical and nursing care, but need 24 hour care in a supportive environment that encourages increasing activity to help them recover.

### **Assisted Living.**

Apartment style living or group home where clients live as independently as possible. Assisted living staff and a licensed practical nurse are available on site, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to meet the scheduled and unscheduled personal care needs of each client. Assisted living is based on principles of choice, privacy, independence, quality of life, self determination and dignity. "Supportive Housing" differs from assisted living in that it does not have personal support staff available 24/7 to meet the unscheduled needs of clients.

### **Long Term Care.**

Care provided for people with a long lasting illness or disability. This care is usually offered in a facility with professional staff available to provide medical care, as well as support with daily living activities.

### **Extended Care.**

Extended care refers to those clients whose physical frailty is the

greatest. They require 24-hour professional care in a residential care facility. Most are unable to walk, transfer from bed to chair without assistance, and often need assistance with activities of daily living such as eating, dressing or using the bathroom.