

Let's Make Healthy
Change Happen.



Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) Narrative for Health Care Organizations in Ontario



SOUTHBRIDGE[®]
— HEALTH CARE LP —

3/1/2025

Overview

In our continued efforts to facilitate the Southbridge vision to bring lives together with meaning and purpose, The Palace will be continuing to focus on four areas of quality in this 2025/2026 QIP plan; namely Operational Excellence, Risk Reduction, Resident-Focus and building on our Safety Culture. This Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) aligns with the requirements of the Fixing Long-Term Care Act, Ontario Health Quality Standards, and other applicable legislation to enhance the quality of life, safety, and care for our residents.

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE:

We continue to strive for operational excellence by implementing evidence-based practices, continuous process improvements, and technology integration to ensure timely, accurate, and cost-effective service delivery. Our goals include optimizing resource allocation, enhancing workflow efficiencies, and achieving high satisfaction among residents, families, and stakeholders.

RISK REDUCTION:

Risk reduction is paramount in our approach to care and services. We utilize validated risk assessment tools, implement proactive interventions, and maintain compliance with safety standards to minimize hazards. Our multidisciplinary teams engage in regular reviews of incident reports and safety audits to identify trends and implement corrective actions promptly.

RESIDENT-FOCUS:

Our philosophy of care places residents at the center of every decision. We ensure individualized care plans that respect each resident's preferences, cultural values, and life-long habits. We actively involve residents and their families in care planning and decision-making to enhance the quality of life and satisfaction.

SAFETY CULTURE:

Our commitment to safety culture is unwavering. We maintain transparent communication, provide ongoing education on safety practices, and encourage staff and residents to voice safety concerns without fear of retaliation. Regular safety drills, emergency preparedness training, and safety-focused performance evaluations ensure a safe living and working environment.

In 2024 we had many quality improvement achievements and successes to celebrate. These successes can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of our multidisciplinary team, the collaboration with our residents, families, and stakeholders as we all share the common goal of improving the care, service, experience and life for all that live, visit and work at The Palace.

Here are just some of the highlights from the last year that we are proud to announce:

- ✓ Decreased usage of agency dietitians.
- ✓ Implemented our own corporate menus.
- ✓ Recruitment of internationally trained nurses enhancing the home's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and allowing us to provide care to our residents in many different languages
- ✓ Implemented measures and processes to mitigate actual and potential risk, as listed below:
 - Quality Forums are held monthly to review key performance indicators and rate them against corporate benchmarks. These quality forums are an opportunity for our homes to review key performance indicators, such as potentially avoidable emergency department visits, and discuss, implement and measure various interventions to ensure that all negative trends are addressed and action plans for improvement implemented.
 - Ensured our Medical Director has achieved the required Ministry certification

- ✓ Developed new home scorecards and HOOPS.
- ✓ Implemented the following improvement initiatives in collaboration with our Pharmacy provider and our interdisciplinary teams:
 - Integrated Medication Management program;
 - Spasticity program - a program that helps improve mobility and quality of life for seniors with spasticity. The program includes assessments, injections, and ongoing support.
 - Scanning technology to improve the accuracy of medication order communication between the home and the pharmacy. This technology replaced the digital pen to further enhance the safe and secure transmission of Prescribers' orders including improvement in staff workflow.
- ✓ Developed standardized Terms of Reference and agenda templates for all committees with a focus on best practice implementation and risk mitigation
- ✓ Created new program checklists and tracking logs to enhance regulatory compliance and best practice implementation including a PRN pain tracking among others.
- ✓ Developed and implemented a Proactive Inspection Guide to ensure quality of care for our residents and regulatory compliance
- ✓ Developed and implemented new PointClickCare Assessments and Care plan library to align with best practice
- ✓ Successfully launched Project Amplifi to ensure timely, efficient and secure communication of critical health information between our home and our local hospitals
- ✓ Increased the availability of Social Service/Social Worker, BSO, Nurse Practitioner and ET Wound Nurse support in our home
- ✓ Implemented a Pain and Palliative Care monthly meeting to continually monitor and measure the effectiveness of our program and develop action plans to address all opportunities for improvement
- ✓ Implemented new Resident Focused policies and procedures aimed at enhancing quality, compliance and implementation of evidence-based best practice throughout all departments in the home
- ✓ Implemented our new Emergency Preparedness program to ensure all staff, residents, volunteers, and students are educated on how to respond in an emergency situation

Access and Flow

Our home is committed to optimizing system capacity, timely access to care, and enhancing patient flow to improve outcomes and quality of care for patients, clients, and residents. As part of this important initiative, we work in partnership with our community partners, including Behaviour Supports Ontario and the Regional Psychogeriatric Resource Consultants, among others, on implementing strategies and treatment plans to avoid unnecessary visits to emergency departments through new models of care and by ensuring timely access to primary care providers. We place a strong emphasis on understanding each resident's goals of care and supporting those goals to the fullest extent possible in our home through proactive identification and management of resident's health issues and maximizing the scope of practice of our Nurse Practitioners and clinical staff to manage health challenges on-site as much as possible. In addition, our home has been actively involved with the Ministry of Long-Term Care and Point Click Care and has successfully implemented Project AMPLIFI, aimed at Improving the continuity of care for Ontario Long-Term Care residents by streamlining transitions between care institutions, leading to safer care for patients, and more efficient workflows for providers.

Equity and Indigenous Health

Our home promotes equity, diversity and inclusion for all our residents and staff and has implemented our new Workforce Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Equal Opportunity Employment policies in 2024. As part of the

implementation of these policies, Southbridge continues to actively recruit internationally trained nurses and staff from a wide range of ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds and our staff speak many different languages. We strongly value this diversity and believe that this enhances the care provided to our residents as we strive to provide care to our residents in their native language whenever possible. All staff receive annual mandatory education on cultural competency, Indigenous Cultural Safety, as well as the Standards of Employee Conduct which clearly outlines our priorities around non-discrimination, zero tolerance for abuse, neglect and unlawful conduct, ethics, professionalism and the promotion of caring and compassion in all we do. All staff receive training on Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act requirements, as well as education on how to provide excellent customer service to those with various disabilities.

Patient/client/resident experience

Performance monitoring is a key part of assessing our resident’s experience and driving our performance and includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Monitoring key quality indicators
- Internal audits
- External audits
- Program evaluations
- Resident satisfaction surveys

Southbridge Care Homes measures and monitors quality initiatives by ensuring effective data collection and accuracy, extensive auditing initiatives and quality indicator score cards. Our home collects, monitors and analyzes all the data we collect to continually improve the care and services we provide our residents.

With this in mind, we put considerable effort into regularly and actively engaging residents and families for their insights and feedback, provide channels for open dialogue, and share ongoing progress through regular updates, collaborative face-to-face meetings, townhall sessions and experience surveys. Our ongoing goal is to continue to build on our existing approaches to resident and family engagement and continue to evolve our approaches to resident and family Partnership.

Resident and Family Satisfaction surveys were conducted in October 2024 and largely reflected both resident and family overall satisfaction with the care and services provided by our home, as illustrated in the survey results below:

Overall Satisfaction with the Care and Services Provided:	2024 Results:
Residents:	85.36%
Family:	83.73%

Based on the results of our 2024 Resident Satisfaction Survey, the top five (5) opportunities for improvement were identified as:

Improvement Opportunity: Resident Satisfaction Question and Rating:	Change Ideas:	Person Responsible:	Target Date:

Noise is at an appropriate level during the day was rated at 80.0%	All staff will be educated on the need to keep noise as low as possible and to restrict conversations to areas away from resident rooms, especially while residents are resting. Staff will be instructed to limit the use of the overhead paging system to only necessary / urgent paging in the homes.	Executive Director	April 2025
I have access to foot care when needed was rated at 78.13%	Request an invitation to the Resident's Council meet to elicit feedback on foot care services. Develop an action plan for improvement based on the feedback received. Ensure that all residents are advised of the foot care schedule and booked as requested.	Executive Director Programs Manager Foot Care Nurse	April 2025
Contenance care products fit properly was rated at 77.63%	Request an invitation to Resident's Council to elicit feedback related to continence care product concerns. Develop an action plan for improvement based on the feedback received. Contenance Care Lead to assess all residents on admission, quarterly and more often as necessary based on changes in the resident's condition to ensure that all continence care products are sized appropriately.	Director of Care Associate Director of Care Contenance Care Lead	May 2025
I am satisfied with the temperature of my food and beverages was rated at 73.00%	Managers to conduct dining room and meal service audits as per policy to ensure that all staff comply with the requirements related to food and beverage temperatures.	Food Services Manager All Management	May 2025
Contenance care products are comfortable was rated at 72.3%	Contenance Care Lead to assess all residents on admission, quarterly and more often as necessary based on changes in the resident's condition to ensure that all continence care products are sized appropriately.	Director of Care Contenance Care Lead	May 2025

Based on the results of our 2024 Family Satisfaction Survey, the top five (5) opportunities for improvement were identified as:

Improvement Opportunity: Family Satisfaction Question and Rating:	Change Ideas:	Person Responsible:	Target Date:
The resident can choose what time they go to bed was rated at 81.06%	Request an invitation to Family Council to seek additional feedback related to this specific item. Develop action plans for improvement based on the feedback received, as feasible.	Director of Care	April 2025

	<p>Staff will be reminded of the need to assess each resident's preferred bedtime and ensure this information is documented and kept current on the resident's care plan.</p> <p>The Director of Care/designate will conduct audits to ensure that the staff are following all bedtimes as identified on the care plan for each resident and re-educate staff as necessary based on the results of the audit.</p>	<p>Associate Director of Care</p> <p>Registered Staff</p>	
I am satisfied with the variety of recreation programs was rated at 80.81%	Request an invitation to Family Council to elicit feedback on this specific item and develop action plans for improvement based on the feedback received, as feasible.	Programs Manager	April 2025
The residents can choose what time they get up in the morning was rated at 80.30%	Request an invitation to Family Council to elicit feedback on this specific item and develop action plans for improvement based on the feedback received, as feasible.	<p>Programs Manager</p> <p>Director of Care</p> <p>Associate Director of Care</p> <p>Registered Staff</p>	May 2025
The resident has input into the recreation programs available was rated at 79.17%	<p>Request an invitation to Family Council to elicit feedback on this specific item and develop action plans for improvement based on the feedback received, as feasible. Staff to make families aware of current processes used to get residents input at Care Conference and Town Hall meetings.</p> <p>Continue to inform families in our monthly newsletters of input from residents at Resident Council Meetings, and resident program review meetings held on a regular basis.</p>	Programs Manager	May 2025
I have an opportunity to provide input on food and beverages options was rated at 74.22%	Request an invitation to Family Council to elicit feedback on this specific item and develop action plans for improvement based on the feedback received, as feasible.	<p>Programs Manager</p> <p>Nutrition Manager</p>	June 2025

The results of both the Resident and Family Satisfaction surveys, as well as the action plans for improvement were reviewed with Resident Council and Family Council and additional input and feedback was requested on these improvement plans from both Councils. In addition, both our Resident and Family Council were provided with an opportunity to suggest additional areas of improvement they would like our home to work on over the coming year. We also elicit as much feedback as possible related to our care and services on an ongoing basis via our Town Hall meetings which are open to all residents, families, visitors and interested community

members and stakeholders. Additionally, all residents and families are always encouraged to provide any feedback, concerns or suggestions they have at any time, to any member of our management team or, if they prefer, individual can email our Corporate Head Office directly at contact@southbridgecare.com.

We post our resident and family satisfaction survey results as well as the action plans for improvement on the Resident and Family Information board as part of our commitment to transparency and shared learning. Fostering trust, engagement, and continuous improvement is paramount for our home. By openly communicating feedback, we demonstrate accountability and a commitment to growth. This approach encourages collaboration, allowing us to learn from both successes and challenges, leading to better decision-making and service enhancements. Additionally, sharing insights promotes a culture of openness, where stakeholders feel heard and valued, ultimately driving higher satisfaction and engagement.

Provider experience

At Southbridge, we believe our staff are our greatest resource and as such, we are continually engaging them in evaluating the care and services we provide, getting their feedback on improvement plans, including this QIP, as well as other quality improvement initiatives in the home. Staff are engaged and their feedback is sought throughout the change management process whenever new policies, programs, equipment, and/or services are developed. Staff satisfaction surveys are conducted and analyzed, and improvement plans developed based on the results of these surveys. Our staff have access to a wide range of educational opportunities and also incentive programs such as, “Perkopolis” which is Canada's leading provider of fully managed perk programs.

As healthcare organizations face unprecedented human resources challenges, Southbridge is committed to enhancing the staff experience and effectively managing these hurdles. We've implemented various initiatives to achieve these goals, including utilizing government grants and incentives to support our workforce development efforts. Additionally, we've embarked on international recruitment endeavors to address staffing shortages and foster diversity within our workforce. Collaborating with educational institutions, we're building talent pipelines to ensure a steady influx of skilled professionals. Moreover, we regularly conduct employee engagement surveys to gather feedback and identify areas for improvement. These surveys enable us to take actionable steps, such as implementing training programs and refining policies and procedures, to create a supportive and fulfilling work environment for our staff. We also prioritize professional development opportunities by providing ongoing training and development opportunities to enhance staff skills, support career advancement, and foster continuous growth. Furthermore, our commitment to continuous quality improvement fosters a culture where staff are empowered to identify areas for enhancement and actively participate in initiatives to improve the care and services provided to our residents. Through these comprehensive efforts, we aim not only to attract and retain top talent but also to cultivate a culture of excellence and resilience within our organization.

Safety

Our home prioritizes safety for all our residents, staff, families and visitors because we know that residents can not enjoy a living environment where they don't feel safe, nor can our employees provide excellent care in an environment which does not prioritize safety. As such, safety is embedded in all our policies, processes and workflows to ensure we provide our customers and employees with a safe environment to live, work or visit. Staff and residents receive education annually on many safety related topics to ensure that everyone is aware of current best practices related to safety and hold safety as a top priority in their daily activities. Continuous learning is always encouraged in our homes and we offer training on many safety-related topics, including body mechanics, lifts and transfers, ergonomics, safe resident bathing and showering practices, prevention,

identification and management of heat and cold related illnesses, prevention of pressure injuries, non-violent crisis intervention as well as, a comprehensive education program centered on Emergency Preparedness.

Our home maintains our ongoing affiliation with Accreditation Canada which demonstrates our organization's determination and commitment to ongoing quality improvement. Our leadership, staff, and accreditation team members are in full support with their efforts and dedication to the provision of safe, quality care and the highest standards. Our Home's continuing affiliation with CareRx for the BOOMR (Better Coordinated Cross-Sectional Medication Reconciliation) projects where the primary goal is to improve safety and quality care of our residents during transitions of care in streamlining the medication process, save nursing time, and reduce unnecessary follow-up is another demonstration of our home's commitment to safe, quality care.

Population Health Approach

Our home is a reflection of the community in which we operate and as such, we work hard to ensure the unique needs of our residents and staff are reflected in the care and services we provide. We are committed to providing service in a manner that respects the dignity and independence of all people, addressing unique populations and striving to meet the needs of those that require our care and services, each and every day. As an early adopter of the Amplifi project, our home is currently working with our community partners to improve patient transitions, ensuring their health information follows them as they move from local hospitals to our home and vice versa. This has been a focus of continued work to ensure safe, effective and timely discharge from hospital for our residents.

Contact information/designated lead

In support of our commitment to a culture of transparency and shared learning, we invite all interested individuals to submit any questions or comments they have related to this Quality Improvement Plan to the Executive Director at 613-525-2022.