

Re: Smoothing the rough passage to a nursing home, Column Nov. 6

Thank you for outlining the Change Foundation's recommendations to help people being hustled out of hospitals into nursing homes. However, the vast majority of people prefer to remain in their homes even with medical challenges, so these strategies apply equally to helping people return home. The Canadian Association of Retired Persons recommends a national caregiver strategy to provide financial support or tax breaks so that family members can afford to take on these responsibilities, workplace protection so that their jobs are not jeopardized, and recognition by the formal health-care system. Helping people to age at home after a hospital stay will reduce demand on hospitals and the long-term care system and can go a long way to stopping rather than just smoothing the passage to a nursing home.

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