

## System failing the chronically ill

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

As a former professor of math and science at McGill University and now a pastor who makes regular visits to nursing homes and long-term health-care centres, it is clear that care for the chronically ill is decidedly inadequate compared to that for the acutely sick.

Far too often no one takes responsibility until the chronically ill individual is admitted to hospital whereupon an actual plan is put into action to improve the patient's health. Before this happens, family physicians can often function more like general practitioners who know too little about the family or home environment.

It is not the fault of the physicians or nurses. The system is sub-optimal. It's like the difference between teacher-centred teaching and student-centred teaching. The former focuses on how it should be done correctly with little or no practical interest on the part of the teacher in trying to understand the student's errors and then going over their errors or misinterpretations.

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