



ALBERTA  
HEALTH

Deputy Premier  
Office of the Minister  
MLA, Edmonton-Glenora

December 20, 2016

AR 138591

Ruth Adria  
Elder Advocates of Alberta Society  
Box 76138  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6H 5Y7

Dear Ruth Adria:

Thank you for your letter regarding the provision of care by male caregivers to vulnerable females in the health care system. Please accept my sincere apology for the delay in responding.

I understand you are concerned that elderly females who receive care from male caregivers may be at risk of sexual abuse. Please be assured that the Government of Alberta takes quality of care concerns seriously and is committed to looking after our seniors and ensuring they are safe and healthy.

Strict standards are in place to prevent abuse in continuing care facilities in Alberta. The *Long-Term Care and Supportive Living Accommodation Standards* requires operators of care facilities to have written processes regarding preventing and reporting abuse, training employees, and sharing information about identifying and reporting abuse of residents, their representatives, volunteers and service providers. The standards can be viewed at [health.alberta.ca/services/continuing-care-forms.html](http://health.alberta.ca/services/continuing-care-forms.html). Additionally, requirements for preventing, managing and reporting abuse in long-term care facilities, as well as requiring criminal record checks, are set out in the *Continuing Care Health Service Standards*, which can be viewed at [health.alberta.ca/documents/Continuing-Care-Standards-2016.pdf](http://health.alberta.ca/documents/Continuing-Care-Standards-2016.pdf). Continuing care sites undergo regular auditing by Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services to ensure compliance with both sets of standards.

The *Continuing Care Health Service Standards* also require that operators ensure every resident has a care plan in place that addresses the resident's physical, mental, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual health care needs and corresponding goals. The plan may address concerns or preferences related to care providers. Continuing care residents and/or their families have the right to request alternate care providers, and are encouraged to work with their case managers/facility administrators to address their preferences. It must be noted, however, not all preferences can be accommodated.

Thank you again for writing and for your advocacy for vulnerable Albertans.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hoffman  
Deputy Premier  
Minister of Health

423 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada Telephone 780-427-3665 Fax 780-415-0961  
10996 - 124 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5M 0H8 Canada Telephone 780-455-7979 Fax 780-455-2197