



Algoma Manor

BSTU Behavioural Support Transition Unit

Algoma Manor is pleased to announce the opening of **13 Behavioural Support Transition Unit (BSTU) beds** within the Pine Unit, expanding access to specialized dementia care for residents in our community. This initiative is part of the Ontario government's recent investment to increase access to dementia care in long-term care across the province.

Behavioural Support Transition Units provide person-centered care for residents living with dementia who experience complex behavioural and psychological symptoms. These dedicated spaces are staffed by teams with specialized training who work collaboratively to provide individualized care that supports residents' physical, emotional, and social needs.

The new BSTU beds located in the Pine Unit will enhance the home's ability to support residents with more complex dementia-related needs in a safe and supportive environment. By providing specialized care within the long-term care setting, BSTUs help residents remain close to their community while reducing the needs for hospital transfers.

This expansion reflects Algoma Manor's ongoing commitment to innovative, compassionate, person-centered care. The addition of BSTU beds will allow our team to further strengthen our expertise in dementia care while ensuring residents and their families receive the support they need.

Algoma Manor looks forward to continuing work with partners across the health system to enhance services for residents and families throughout the Algoma region.

PEACEFUL PINE BSTU

BSTUs provide short-term, specialized care for residents with dementia who exhibit complex responsive behaviours that cannot be safely managed in a standard long-term care environment. The typical length of stay is 90-120 days, depending on stabilization and discharge planning.

Goals:

- Stabilize complex responsive behaviours
- Improve resident quality of life and safety
- Develop individualized behavioural care interventions
- Provide education and support to care teams
- Reduce unnecessary hospital transfers and emergency visits

REFERRAL PROCESS:

- Referral initiated through Ontario Health atHome Care Coordinator
- Clinical documentation reviewed
- BSTU Admission team assesses appropriateness
- Admission prioritized based on clinical need and bed availability



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BSTU ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Clinical Criteria:

- Older adults living with responsive behaviours/personal expressions associated with dementia, complex mental health, substance use and/or other neurological conditions - or younger adults with age-related cognitive changes
 - Personal expressions/responsive behaviours examples:
 - Vocal Expressions (asking questions, requests, crying, moaning, sighing, grunting, repeating, etc)
 - Motor Expression (banging, fidgeting, rummaging, collecting, trying to leave, disrobing, pacing, etc.)
 - Sexual expressions of risk (sexual comments/questions, self-pleasuring in others' presence, requesting sexual favours, sexual threats, unwanted touching, etc.)
 - Verbal expressions of risk (derogatory insults, swearing, screaming/yelling, threatening, etc.)
 - Physical expressions of risk (biting, kicking, choking, pinching, grabbing, throwing, punching, etc.)
- Behavioural symptoms exceed the capacity of the current care environment (LTC home, hospital, retirement home, or community setting)

Care Needs:

- Behavioural symptoms cannot be managed with usual LTC resources or community behavioural supports
- Resident requires specialized behavioural assessment and stabilization
- Medical conditions are stable and manageable in a LTC environment

Other:

- Resident is 18 years or older with a valid Ontario Health card, and eligible for long-term care services in Ontario
- Referral and assessment completed through Ontario Health at Home Care Coordinator

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Medical Exclusions:

- Unstable medical conditions requiring acute care
- Active delirium requiring medical investigation
- Conditions requiring hospital-level treatment

Psychiatric Exclusions

- Behaviours primarily due to:
 - Severe primary psychiatric disorder
 - Active psychosis unrelated to dementia
 - Need for involuntary psychiatric admission
- Need for ECT or specialized psychiatric inpatient care

Other:

- Behaviours not related to cognitive impairment
- Individuals already stabilized in another setting
- Care needs that cannot be safely managed in a BSTU/LTC setting

ADMISSION CRITERIA

The following conditions must be met to be admitted to Algoma Manor BSTU:

- Clear clinical goals for behavioural stabilization
- Documented responsive behaviours impacting safety or quality of life
- Evidence that other behavioural supports have been attempted (ie. Behavioural Supports Ontario, geriatric psychiatry, environmental strategies)
- Interdisciplinary review and approval of the referral
- Discharge plan identified (return to LTC unit or other care environment)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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