



# in the news



## Leisureworld to focus on five core education programs for '09

*Interdisciplinary education creates sustainable solutions and better resident outcomes*

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By Camille Jensen

Leisureworld homes will have the opportunity to choose from five core educational programs offered by Preferred Health Care Services in 2009 designed to build capacity and enhance resident care.

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— Lynn Slaney, director of education at Preferred Health Care Services

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Lynn Slaney, director of education with Preferred Health Care Services, says the programs were chosen based on quality indicators and as part of the organization's strategic plan. The goal is for all homes to have completed the five programs, which they can

prioritize based on need, in the next four to five years.

The core programs are:

- Falls prevention
- Restorative care
- Restraint minimization
- Clinical documentation
- Hush — No Rush dementia care

A new course available

this year is Preferred's restorative care program, which focuses on sustaining and promoting resident independence.

The program expands restorative care to the

front lines by training personal support workers (PSWs) on techniques and tools they can use to support residents in retaining and improving their physical capabilities.

Clinical documentation and Hush — No Rush have also been revamped to include updates and best

practices for the homes.

The clinical documentation program now offers a four-step system called DARE, that seeks to raise awareness on the importance of documentation among registered staff while providing a streamlined procedure to make the process more efficient and quality driven.

Falls prevention, which was introduced in the 2008 year, will be offered for the first time to homes in 2009.

Slaney recommends homes concentrate on one to two core programs per year, as the education is comprehensive, and may involve changing processes as well as new education.

She says educators take an interdisciplinary approach to each program, involving staff from a variety of departments that contributes to sustainable solutions in the homes.

“It really is an interdisciplinary examination of our processes and things that we need to change, plus, add

education to facilitate that happening,” explains Slaney, who says this approach has a number of benefits.

“It does really speak to that transfer of learning and it does take education from a classroom into behaviour changes that positively influence good resident outcomes.”

In addition, Slaney says Preferred Health Care plans to continually improve their education resources, by offering course outlines online and working with community partners and service vendors to compile educational opportunities and training that would be relevant to the homes. This information would be available on Preferred's website.

Also new this year is an increase in frequency on course topics such as orientation, leadership and Customer First, which will be offered on a regional basis to improve the availability of the education for staff members.