

DEPARTMENT: Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP)

HOSPITAL SITE: Juravinski Hospital

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE: Kelly Turner (Elder Life Specialist)

**Location:-
Juravinski Hospital**

**Ph.Ext.
42801**

1. Number of students requested for this semester: 4-6 depending on quality of student candidates.

2. Placement Title: Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP)
Type: Patient care (Indirect)

3. Please provide a brief description (a couple of sentences) of student placement and identify 5 primary tasks/duties/activities in order of importance to be observed/performed by the student(s).

The Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) is a program that is designed to help improve hospital care for seniors. Students in the HELP program work on the acute care units in the hospital under the supervision of the HELP Elder Life Specialist. This is a highly sought after placement as students work directly with patients at the bedside. It is an ideal placement for students who are considering careers in fields such as health care, social care, medicine, psychology. Shadowing opportunities are available.

Primary roles:

- Conversation and companionship to patients. Helping patients to know where they are, the date, the time of day through conversation, updating bedside whiteboards and providing calendars. Discussing current events.
- Engaging patients in activities to keep their minds working. Playing cards, providing word puzzles, colouring, books etc.
- Encouraging patients to eat and drink. Opening up packaging, cueing and encouraging patients to eat. Getting patients drinks. (As students, you will not be feeding patients).
- Encouraging patients to do some gentle range of motion exercises. Walking with selected stable patients.
- Maintain good infection control practices. Safe donning and doffing of PPE. Vigilant with handwashing.

Other roles:

- Assisting the Elder Life Specialist with maintaining supplies and resources for patient use
- Creating resources for patient use

4. Work situation (e.g. on own, with equipment, with people:

Under the supervision of the Elder Life Specialist:

- Working with seniors 1-1 at the bedside
- Interacting with staff working on acute care units
- Some computer work

5. Desired skills/attitudes.

- Grade 12 or 13 student preferred
- Responsible, reliable, mature
- Must have regular attendance and punctuality
- Caring and respectful
- Highly motivated
- Ability to work as directed both independently and as part of a team
- An interest in working with patients in an inpatient setting
- Good communication skills

Type of student not appropriate for this placement.

6.

- Students who have a record of poor attendance/poor timekeeping
- Students who require extensive direction
- Students who are unable to work independently and work best with direct and constant supervision