

## Social Workers Make a Difference



Social Work is a helping profession dedicated to improving the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities. Social workers help people in every stage of life, from children to the elderly, to realize their potential and enjoy full, active and creative lives.

With their knowledge, training and experience, social workers help people manage life's most difficult demands and get the services and support they need from the best resources available.

Anyone can make a referral to a social worker — ask your doctor, nurse or health care provider. Here is who you can contact for further information:

### Help that's Professional

#### Social Workers are:

**Educated:** with University degrees at the Bachelors, Masters or Doctorate level

**Ethical:** adhering to a clearly articulated Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice

**Experienced:** trained to look at all the dimensions of a person's life, working with people in the overall context of their environment

**Effective:** in advocating for the services and resources people need and assisting them to navigate complex or confusing systems

**Social Workers help.  
Any time. Anywhere.**



**Social Workers  
Help starts here.**

This brochure was produced by the  
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[www.bcasw.org](http://www.bcasw.org)

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## Social Work Services



**in Health Care  
Settings**



**Help starts here.**

## Social Workers on the Health Care Team

Health care social workers are university graduates of accredited schools of Social Work who have the professional skills to assist you, and those close to you, in dealing with the emotional and practical issues that may arise because of illness, injury or disability.

We know that coming to a hospital, care facility or community health program can be stressful. We understand how health-related concerns affect other areas of your life and have an impact on those around you. We'll help you find solutions for many problems — from everyday issues to life's most challenging situations.

As part of the health care team, a social worker is available to support you and your family throughout your care, providing information, counselling and referral services to assist you and your family to understand and manage medical, psychological, social and practical concerns.

## Psychological and Emotional Support

Social workers are skilled counsellors who provide a supportive, confidential place for individuals, family members and caregivers to voice concerns and deal with issues such as:

- difficulty in managing the impact of illness on your work, personal relationships or ability to care for yourself
- loss of independence
- loneliness and isolation
- self-esteem and confidence
- lifestyle changes
- making difficult decisions
- grief and loss
- feeling overwhelmed or out of control
- handling a crisis
- abusive situations
- end of life decisions
- alcohol and drug misuse
- family relationships
- self care and support systems
- making the transition from home to residential care
- communication — with family, friends and health care providers



## Practical Assistance

Social workers are your link to:

- community resources and services that will support you in dealing with the many details that can surface when a loved one is ill or disabled — including care, financial, legal, emotional or spiritual needs
- information or assistance regarding pre-admission procedures, transportation, home care services following discharge, or specialized medical resources
- guidance about future planning tools (representation agreements, powers of attorney)
- help with other issues that may affect the continuity of your care