

Health Care Social Workers

The Role of Social Workers on the Health Care Team

Constructive Solutions

By understanding the social determinants of health, social workers effectively work to address practical, emotional, and social barriers that prevent individuals from benefiting fully from the skilled care of other health care providers.

Effective Support

Social workers help clients/patients and their families to negotiate complex systems, build solid support networks, and strengthen their ability to advocate for themselves. They assist people to increase their independence and thus rely less on formal services.

Informed Advocacy

Social workers are accomplished at finding creative solutions within existing policy and practice frameworks. They are ambassadors for change, committed to ensuring that patients and their families have access to the resources they need for optimum health.

Social Workers are Essential to the Health Care Team

They are counsellors, facilitators, care coordinators, patient advocates, program managers, mediators, educators, and community development consultants.

They are experts in family dynamics, trained to address complex family issues that may interfere with progress and effective use of health care resources.

They use a strengths-based systems lens when working with individuals and families to address psycho-emotional and social issues that affect well-being.

They provide counselling and resources to support families through the toughest of times; dealing with illness, disability, and loss.

They help people navigate service delivery systems and facilitate access to personal and community resources.

They play key roles in conflict resolution and crisis response, including providing assessment, psychological first aid, and group interventions.

They advocate for and are trained in the application of relevant policy and legislation.

They facilitate communication that takes into account cultural, language, and literacy issues.

They contribute a person-centred perspective to ethical decision making.

As team builders, they take a lead role in facilitating a preventative and interprofessional approach to health.



Specialized Skills

Many social workers are designated responders to abuse or self-neglect concerns under Adult Guardianship legislation.

Many social workers are Qualified Health Care Providers, able to complete incapability assessments under the Adult Guardianship legislation.

Many social workers have the additional qualification of Registered Clinical Social Worker, allowing them to independently use the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders in the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders and conditions.

Social Workers Make a Difference

Social Work is a helping profession dedicated to improving the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

Utilizing their knowledge of human behavior and social systems, social workers help people realize their potential and assist them to enjoy full, active, and creative lives. They help people in every stage of life, ensuring they get the help they need from the best resources available.

With knowledge of human development and behavior, social, economic, and cultural factors, and the interaction between them, social workers help people manage life's most difficult challenges.

Their unique perspective is a vital component in the delivery of quality, cost-effective health care services.



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Social Workers
Help starts here.