



St. John Ambulance

The Order of St. Lazarus
Grand Priory in Canada



Home Caregiver Support Program Online Information Sheet

St. John Ambulance, in association with the Order of St. Lazarus, is pleased to introduce an online version of the Home Caregiver Support Program (HCSP), begun in 2013, that is now available nationally. The program is designed to provide much needed information and assistance to non-professional caregivers who are providing care for family members or friends suffering from chronic or terminal illnesses. Caregivers can include other family members, partners, parents, children, and close friends. Patients are welcome to do the program as well.

The program is funded by The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem. Content development and presentation is the responsibility of St. John Ambulance.

The HCSP is free for caregivers and patients and is accepting registration now online in both English and French: www.stlazarus.ca/HCSP. The program is compatible on all devices (computer/tablet/smart phone). There is a link on the website of the program for an optional donation to the Order of St. Lazarus to aid in maintenance costs of the web-based program and to continue to offer it free of charge. Content details can be found on the attached PDF flyer(s). After requesting the course on the homepage and registering online, an access code will be sent to participants to log on to do the course.

The HCSP online course is designed for caregivers to do on their own time in the comfort of their own homes. An introductory module provides an overview of the program and what is covered in the other modules. In keeping with hospice palliative care philosophy, the program addresses the physical, psychological, social, spiritual and practical issues faced by caregivers while looking after their loved ones at home. Topics include home care, symptom management, dealing with emotions and stress management experienced by caregivers. Other modules provide information on supports in the community, advance care planning and how to encourage inner spiritual strength. Each module can be completed in about one hour. Caregivers can do any or all modules as their needs dictate and return to the website at any time. An additional in person practical session may be available in selected communities (Ontario only at present). After completing the online course, the practical session offers time for activities, discussion of local resources, peer-mentoring, and the opportunity to ask questions. Interested parties should contact Dr. Robert Boyko, Provincial Medical Advisor and Program Director for further information.

The program is based on *A Caregiver's Guide - A Handbook About End-Of-Life Care*, published by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association and The Order of Saint Lazarus who has provided funding for the development of the online version of the program. Program development and additional content was written by Dr. Robert Boyko, a Family Physician, Assistant Professor with the University of Toronto, and Provincial Medical Advisor for St. John Ambulance, Ontario as well as Past Hospitaller, Grand Priory in Canada of The Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem.

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