

Introductory Note for Attending Health Care Professionals

The *Ethical Protocols for Attending Health Care Professionals* have been developed to facilitate discussion between nursing homes and attending health care professionals. “Attending health professionals” includes all those who visit the home to deliver professional health care, such as medical professionals, specialist nurses, dietitians, occupational therapists, and physiotherapists. The care relationship is between the attending health professional and the resident and his or her representatives for medical treatment if the resident is not competent. Often the decisions and advice of attending health professionals are for care that is implemented by the provider, nursing and other staff.

It is vital that there be a clear understanding between the attending health professional and the staff. Documentation of medical decisions and advice is most important. To avoid misunderstanding and inefficiencies, the terms used need to be unambiguous. It is helpful if there are standard ways of recording instructions on matters of ethical sensitivity.