First Link® to dementia support

First Link® Premier lien MD

What is First Link®?

First Link helps physicians and other health care providers connect individuals with dementia and their care partners to Alzheimer Society of B.C services and support.

First Link® offers you:

- A simple referral system.
- Client support between clinical visits.
- Updates about dementia education and support opportunities.
- Knowledge that your patients/clients are connected to reliable services to help them manage the disease.

First Link® offers your patients/clients:

- Proactive contact and follow up.
- Ongoing access to learning opportunities and support.
- Connection to a supportive community of others living with dementia.
- Knowledge, confidence and skills to live well with the challenges of dementia.

You can refer a patient or client to First Link as soon as a diagnosis is made or **at any other time** on the dementia journey. Clients referred to First Link are connected to Society services on average 11 months sooner than when reaching out on their own. The earlier the person is referred, the better their opportunities for participating in decision-making and future planning.

How to refer to First Link®:

- Ask the individual or family member for permission to forward their name to First Link.
- Complete a referral form and fax it to the Alzheimer Society of B.C.

First Link staff will contact the individual or designated contact person within five business days or after three weeks for those who are adjusting to the diagnosis. You will receive a confirmation note when contact has been made.

For more information and referral forms:

- Call the First Link Dementia Helpline at 1-800-936-6033.
- Provincial fax 604-669-6907.
- Visit alzbc.org/First-Link.
- Email firstlink@alzheimerbc.org.

"In a clinic setting, we may only see a client 1 or 2 times. With a First Link® referral we know that clients/families will be provided with ongoing support through the dementia journey." *– Eve Lyon, Social Worker | St. Paul's Hospital – Elder Care Ambulatory Services*

Alzheimer Society BRITISH COLUMBIA

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Health