

MAKING A REFERRAL TO **First Link®**

“Working together to link individuals and families affected by Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia to a community of learning, services and support.”

- **Referrals** from physicians, health professionals and community organizations
- **Proactive contact** with individuals and families
- **Connections to:**
 - **LEARNING** - Dementia education programs offering information about diagnosis and disease progression, day-to-day living, positive approaches to care, strategies for managing challenges and how to prepare for the future
 - **SERVICES** - Alzheimer Society programs and services, and information about other community and health care services
 - **SUPPORT** - support groups and opportunities for individual support
- **Planned follow up** at minimum 6, 12, and 18 months.

Who to refer to *First Link*®?

- Individuals with a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia
- Caregivers
- Family members

When to refer?

- As soon as a diagnosis is made
- At any other time in the dementia journey

Why refer?

- It is often difficult for individuals and families to ask for help
- Information and support will help patients and families cope with more confidence
- Planning for the future is critical
- There are community and health care services that families need to know about
- With knowledge and skills, people are able to maintain quality of life while living with dementia

Who can make a referral?

- Physicians
- Health Care professionals
- Community organizations working with individuals and families affected by dementia

How to refer?

Ask the individual or family member for permission to forward their name to First Link[®].

Physicians can easily refer with the First Link[®] referral pad. The lower portion of the form is given to the patient or family member; the top portion is sent to First Link[®].

Health Care Professionals and Community Organizations complete a one-page referral form that is faxed to First Link[®] toll free 1-866-746-1507 or emailed to firstlinkreferral@alzheimer.sk.ca

What happens when *First Link*[®] receives the referral?

Individuals or family members will receive:

- A phone call from the First Link[®] Coordinator within the time frame indicated on the referral form.
- An information package specific to their needs
- Contact Information for community and health care services that may be helpful
- Follow up contact at minimum 6, 12, and 18 months.

First Link[®] will send a confirmation to each referring professional when contact has been made with the individual or family.

For more information and for referral packages, contact:

PROVINCIAL OFFICE
Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan
301-2550-12th Avenue
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(306) 949-4141 or 1-800-263-3367
E-mail: firstlinkreferral@alzheimer.sk.ca