

Caring for Patients Experiencing Homelessness

Continuum of Homelessness



Take Home Points

Homelessness exists on a **fluid continuum**.

Many factors contribute to the challenges with follow-up such as **lack of address and phone for contacting patients, lacking ID, transport**, etc.

Very important to try to **plan ahead** when making appointments for individuals in this population; **arranging transport, taxi/bus tokens, social workers** to coordinate appointment notifications.

CUPS, Connect 2 Care and emergency shelter teams are very valuable resources for this population.

Ask about and consider **medication coverage** when prescribing medications.

Remember that there is a system for obtaining **emergency medication coverage**.

Plan Ahead and Connect to Resources

Appointments



Transportation

Consider how the patient will be transported to and from appt. *Vouchers* for bus or taxi services.



Coordination

Coordinate with local shelters to help notify. Affiliation with *CUPS, primary care or case workers*. Referring to services like *Connect 2 Care*.

Prescription Medications



Information

Having a discussion about *side effects* can help prepare the patient.



Access

Consider how patient will afford and obtain. Apply for *emergency coverage through Alberta Works*, if needed.