

GRAND ROUNDS

Customized, senior-specialized care at RVH

Elderly patients coming into our busy Emergency Department expect to be seen by our nurses and the physician. What they may not expect is an assessment by a specialized Geriatric Emergency Management (GEM) nurse.

Susan Goldsmith-Davis is an extra set of eyes and ears for our more senior population. She provides an additional line of support to improve seniors' overall well-being.

Each patient brings their own set of challenges and Goldsmith-Davis is always prepared with creative, helpful strategies to keep them healthy, informed and safe.

Her primary focus is to serve emergency patients. "I can gather a lot of information about their overall state of health by seeing them in person."

Goldsmith-Davis is also a member of the Renfrew County Falls Prevention Committee. By observing the way they walk, she can quickly tell if someone is at high risk for falls, one of the most common concerns for seniors.

In-person assessments can take a couple of hours.

They discuss various services or, in some cases, technology available. Devices like a personal alarm detect when a person

falls and can connect them to an emergency contact or paramedics immediately.

"There are simple solutions that cost less than a cup of coffee a day and can bring peace of mind to the patient and their loved ones," notes Goldsmith-Davis.

Her role also includes working with the families to address any extra care needs, and connecting with the appropriate services.

When she's not seeing patients in the Emergency Department, Goldsmith-Davis will provide follow-up telephone calls to individuals who the medical team feels could use her expertise.

The specialized geriatric services are all aimed at helping the elderly population in our community maintain their health and independence.

"In many cases, they only need a tiny bit of help at the right time and it's these small suggestions that are worthwhile," she concludes.

RVH's commitment to every member of our community at every stage of life means we are continuously investing in ways to provide the best care possible close to home.



Susan Goldsmith-Davis, RVH's GEM nurse, provides assessment and support for senior members of our community.