# **Domiciliary Care Guide**

#### What is Domiciliary Care?

Domiciliary care is for people that live in their own homes but require additional support with household tasks, personal care, doctor or hospital visits, or any other activities that allow them to maintain their independence and quality of life. It is also called 'home care'.

Domiciliary care can be provided to anyone at any stage of life – post a hospital stay, at the onset of mental health problems, or once sensory impairment or physical disabilities have developed. Further, domiciliary care is tailored to your needs and schedule. It can range from a visit once a day for an hour to full live-in home care (in which a carer is with you day and night).

After calling an agency and undergoing a care assessment, you receive a care plan unique to your needs and condition. This care plan takes your existing routine into account and works around your schedule. In addition, carers that are best suited to your needs and personality are assigned to you

#### The Benefits of Domiciliary Care

The two key benefits of domiciliary care are the improvements on elderly individuals.

1. Benefits to Physical Health – The fact that domiciliary carers are present for timely medication reminders, transferring to and from beds and around the house, and for meal preparation and cooking, ensures that elderly individuals maintain their physical health.

In addition, their physical strength can also be sustained as in-home carers can keep them active and moving by doing exercises with them as well as ensuring that they maintain healthy diets.

2. Benefits to Psychological Health – In-home carer can help prevent older individuals from falling victim to depression and loneliness. Depression is a serious problem that can go unnoticed. It interferes with your body's basic functioning by causing sleeping problems, irregular eating, headaches and fatigue.

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Sometimes all one needs is companionship, individuals can take comfort in knowing that beyond their family there is another individual that cares and is invested in their wellbeing. In addition, they have the comfort and security of remaining in a familiar environment – their homes!

### Financing Domiciliary Care

You may be eligible to receive funds for domiciliary care – if this is the case, you can choose to get payments paid straight into your bank account. Contact your council to find out more. The payment processes for most home care agencies have been designed to be hassle free. Direct payments are made to agencies after which payments to carers, taxes and insurance are all dealt with by them.

### Quality & Assurance Care

Are there security checks for carers? – Private in-home care agencies complete Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)checks for all carers. Further, at Vida, it is standard procedure to follow up with each carers' references. This is done to ensure that references check out and to inquire about the quality of care delivered by a carer and whether it is up to the Vida standard – above par care that is delivered with compassion.

How do you ensure the quality of carers? – Research the in-home care agency itself and read client reviews online. We at Rapid invest in upskilling our carers. We believe that by ensuring our carers are the best–with a personable approach and the highest level of training—we can provide clients with the best in-home care.