

PATHWAYS ABILITIES SOCIETY

POLICY: PERSONAL CARE AND PERSONAL CARE FOR PERSONS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX

Applies to: All Personnel and Contractors

Original Approval Date: 1993

Date Board Approved: October 18, 2019

Replaces Policy Dated: January 24, 2013

Board Member's Signature

PREAMBLE

Personal care is defined as any procedure involving physical care or treatment that is an invasion of bodily privacy and that may be a potential source of exposure or embarrassment to the individual receiving services. The understanding of what constitutes intimate care may vary within cultures.

Personal care can include however is not limited to assisting someone to eat, oral care, bathing and washing, dressing and undressing, providing washroom support and assistance, menstrual care and medical support i.e. catheters, enemas and suppositories.

Pathways Abilities Society believes in the provision of person-centred support. This involves putting the person with care needs at the centre of the service and ensuring everything done is based on what is important to that person from their own perspective.

POLICY

Pathways Abilities Society staff and contractor will uphold each person's right to privacy, safety, dignity and confidentiality. Staff will support people wherever possible in making their own choices and decisions about the care they receive in order for them to retain as much independence as possible and maximize each individual's skills and abilities. Staff and contractors are required to respectfully support individuals which includes however is not limited to explaining to the person what they are doing, not making any negative comments during the process and engaging in the least amount of contact required to assist the person in a dignified manner. Whenever possible, the person will be given the option to choose the staff they want to assist them and staff will be on duty to provide personal care to individuals of the same sex.