

First Link[®]

Making a referral

First Link[®] dementia support helps health-care providers connect people with dementia and their caregivers to support and learning opportunities at the time of confirmed or probable diagnosis, or at any other point in the progression of the disease.

When you refer someone to First Link[®], your clients will be supported by the Society on an ongoing basis, ensuring they have the information they need, when they need it.

Who to refer to First Link[®]?

- Individuals receiving a diagnosis or probable diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or other dementias
- Caregivers
- Family members

When to refer?

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

Why refer?

First Link[®] offers your clients:

- Ongoing support and learning
- Skills and confidence to live as well as possible with the disease
- Learning opportunities for every step of the journey, including *Shaping the Journey: living with dementia* and the *Family Caregiver Series*
- Access to First Link[®] Dementia Helpline (1-800-936-6033) at any time
- Support groups for people in early stages of the disease and for caregivers
- Minds in Motion, a social and fitness program for people living with any form of early-stage dementia and their care partner
- Individual support by phone or in-person
- Connection to a community of people affected by dementia
- Referrals to other community and health-care resources

Alzheimer Society
BRITISH COLUMBIA

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How to refer?

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

Physicians, Health Care Professionals and Community Organizations can easily refer.

Just complete the one-page referral form and fax it to First Link[®] at the number listed below.

Forms can be downloaded from the Alzheimer Society of B.C.'s website <https://alzbc.org/resources-for-health-care-providers> or accessed on Med Access, Wolf or Pathways web-based directory.

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

Individuals or family members will receive:

- A phone call from Alzheimer Society staff
- An information package specific to their needs
- Regular bulletins and communications from the Society to keep them informed about dementia education and support programs
- Referrals to community and health care services that may be helpful
- Follow up contact at 3 months, 6 months, one year, etc.

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

Please fax your referral to:

Fax 1-833-238-7390 (toll free) or 604-238-7390

For more information, please call the First Link[®] Dementia Helpline, Monday to Friday:

English (9 a.m. to 8 p.m.): 1-800-936-6033

Cantonese and Mandarin (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.): 1-833-674-5007

Punjabi (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.): 1-833-674-5003

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