**Environmental Considerations Checklist – Patients Returning to the Community**

*Instructions: Circle yes or no depending on the patient’s response to the question. If required, please explore what safety options or mitigating factors can be explored prior to returning home.*

1) YES/NO- Do transportation methods and availability change seasonally? (Ie: Are certain roadways susceptible to flooding in the spring? Are ice roads a primary route for transportation?)

If yes, do they have a plan for getting to important locations during each season?

2) YES/NO- Is there a significant health risk posed by indoor air pollution? (Ie: From smoking, heating appliances, attached garages, insulation, varnishes, solvents, poor ventilation- which may release carbon monoxide (CO), formaldehyde, volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), including benzene and formaldehyde, particulate matter, fungi)

If yes, are there was to mitigate this at home?

3) YES/NO- Is there a temperature-controlled area for safe storage of medications?

4) YES/NO- Does the patient’s home community have access to clean drinking water?

If not, do they know how to properly boil water/disinfect water for consumption?

5) YES/NO- Do they work in a sector with prolonged exposure to UV radiation?

If yes, do they know what products are available to mitigate risks of eye damage and skin cancer?

6) YES/NO- Does the patient live in a known flood zone?

If yes, do they have safety devices such as life jackets and a safety plan?

7) YES/NO- Does the patient live in an area known for frequent wildfires?

If yes, what tools do they have at home to mitigate this? (ie: air filters, rooms that can be closed off from outdoor air (smoke), smoke detectors, CO detectors, evacuation plans).

8) YES/NO- Does the patient live in a region affected by severe winter storms?

If yes, what tools do they have available? (ie: extra blankets, back-up power generators, non-perishable food, water bottles, radios)

9) YES/NO- Do they live near a body of water?

If yes, do they know how to swim? Are there any children or seniors that are at risk for wandering and drowning?

10) YES/NO- Does the patient know which public health unit district they live in?

References

1. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/air-quality/causes-poor-indoor-air-quality.html>
2. <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-topics/ug5158>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/duringfire.html>