

Continuing healthcare (CHC) fast-track application

Information for patients, relatives and carers

This leaflet aims to answer some of the questions you may have about the fast-track NHS continuing healthcare application process from hospital.

What is NHS fast-track continuing healthcare?

Continuing healthcare (sometimes called CHC) is for adults. It is a funding programme for care arranged by your local NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB). If you are eligible for NHS continuing healthcare, it pays for care home fees or carers in your own home. This care is not means-tested, and you do not have to pay for it.

If you are very ill and rapidly getting worse, or nearing the end of your life, you might be able to get NHS continuing healthcare more quickly by the **fast-track** pathway.

How do I get fast-track continuing healthcare?

To get fast-track NHS continuing healthcare, a healthcare professional has to assess your care needs. They will need to be trained in fast-track assessments. Our hospital teams will do these assessments and send the application forms to your local ICB. Please speak to the doctors and nurses looking after you if you have any questions or concerns.

The ICB will process your fast-track NHS continuing healthcare application. If they accept your application, they will arrange care for you. They will do this as soon as possible from the resources they have available. This could be a care home or carers coming to your home. The ICB will take your care preferences into account but cannot guarantee a specific care provider.

Why do I have to share my personal information?

To make sure you get the right care, doctors, nurses, and care teams need to collect and share your personal information. This includes sharing information with nominated family and friends, as well as other named representatives. We will ask you to consent to share your personal information at the beginning of the application process.

If someone does not have mental capacity to consent to share information, we might have to make a decision in their best interest. We will follow the principles of the Mental Capacity Act.

You can find more information about consent and the application process at www.nhs.uk/social-care-and-support/money-work-and-benefits/nhs-continuing-healthcare/.

Will my needs and care be reviewed?

Yes, if you receive fast-track continuing healthcare, the ICB will carry out regular reviews. They usually review your needs and care package after 6 to 12 weeks.

The process for NHS continuing healthcare assessment can be complex. An organisation called Beacon offers free independent advice about NHS continuing healthcare. Visit the <http://www.beaconchc.co.uk> or call the free helpline on 0345 548 0300.