

Fast Track care funding

Information for patients about the Fast Track pathway for urgent access to NHS Continuing Healthcare

What is Fast Track Pathway funding?

Fast Track Pathway funding may be required if an appropriate clinician (A doctor or nurse) considers a person is eligible for urgent access to NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) because they have:

- a rapidly deteriorating condition, and
- their condition may be entering a terminal phase.

NHS Continuing Healthcare means a package of on-going care in your own home or care home that is dependent on your assessed needs and arranged and funded by the NHS.

What is the application process?

With your consent an appropriate clinician will complete the Fast Track Pathway Tool to establish your eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare. A member of your healthcare team should explain to you why an application is being made and ask you about your care preferences. As part of this process a care plan will be sent to NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to enable it to arrange a package of care for you as urgently as is possible.

The CCG will work to find services in your preferred setting where this is possible.

Please be aware it may take time to set up the help you need if there are not enough available service providers in the patients chosen area.

All care agencies and care homes that the CCG use are registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

A letter from NHS Vale of York CCG will be sent to you or your representative once the funding has been approved.

Will I have to pay for my care?

No. The NHS care package provided should meet your eligible health and associated social care needs as identified in your care plan. In some circumstances you may wish to purchase additional private services.

Please be aware that some of your disability benefits can be affected by you being on an NHS Continuing Healthcare care package. It is recommended that you contact the disability service centre to notify them of any changes. Further information about welfare benefits is via <https://www.gov.uk/disability-benefits-helpline>

How long does the funding last for?

Fast Track funding is not awarded indefinitely and is subject to regular reviews. An initial review usually occurs around 6-12 weeks.

Your care plan and care package may need to be amended to take account of any changes in your health needs. There may be some instances where it becomes appropriate to reassess your eligibility for Fast Track funding. For example, the decision may have been made when you were acutely unwell which was later found to be treatable, or your condition may have stabilised. Your entitlement and level of funding will rely on the outcome of the assessments and is therefore subject to change.

If you no longer fulfil the criteria for Fast Track funding and still require an on-going package of care, you may be liable to pay for part or all of your care. Your local authority will be able to advise further on this.

What does the re-assessment involve?

If it becomes appropriate to reassess your eligibility for NHS funding, a member of the Continuing Healthcare team will get in touch with you to arrange a review. This usually occurs in the place where the care is being provided and will involve yourself and your family if you choose for them to be involved.

Advocacy and advice

Beacon, an organisation funded by NHS England, gives free independent advice on NHS Continuing Healthcare. Phone 0345 548 0300 or go online at www.beaconchc.co.uk You can also write to Beacon, 10 Napier Court, Barton Lane, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3YT.

Contacting the team

For more information or to have an informal discussion, please contact the NHS Vale of York Continuing Healthcare Team by phone 0300 303 8294 or email voycg.continuing-care@nhs.net

For further information about NHS Continuing Healthcare and personal health budgets please go to www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/nhs-continuing-healthcare-funding/

Further information

The National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care is a set of national guidelines that are applied during an assessment to identify physical and mental needs. These are available to download from the GOV.uk website at www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-framework-for-nhs-continuing-healthcare-and-nhs-funded-nursing-care