



Care  
Navigators

CONTINUING HEALTHCARE

2024/25



## Continuing Healthcare – Later Life Care (England)

[The National Framework](#) for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS funded nursing care sets out the principles and processes for determining eligibility.

### What is Continuing Healthcare?

NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) is a package of care arranged and funded solely by the [Integrated Care Board](#) (local NHS in England) for a person who is aged 18 or over and has been found to have a '**primary health need**' that has arisen because of disability, accident or illness. This is regardless of where the care is to be provided and includes: care at home, residential or nursing homes.

### Primary health need

Although no legal definition for 'primary health care', the term comes from an important Court of Appeal case, the 'Coughlan case', decided a Local Authority is limited to nursing care which is:

- merely incidental or ancillary to the provision of the accommodation which a local authority is under a duty to provide and
- of a nature that a social services authority can be expected to provide

### Who administers CHC?

The Integrated Care Board (ICB) that holds the contract with the GP practice responsible for care at the time of application is responsible for deciding eligibility to Continuing Healthcare.

### [The Checklist](#)

The National Screening Continuing Healthcare Checklist can be used in a community or a hospital setting and aims to help trained health/social care professionals identify people who should have a full assessment to determine their eligibility.

Discharge to Assess pathways support Hospital Discharge with short term funding either at home or in a short-term placement, to enable ongoing care needs to be assessed which may include a CHC Checklist and/or Assessment.

Following a positive checklist, a full assessment should be carried out by a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) and the Decision Support Tool (DST) used to make a recommendation for eligibility to CHC.

The checklist is based on 11 of the 12 care domains (areas of care need) used in the decision support tool. The domain 'other significant needs' is not used. The care domains broken down into three levels: A, B or C (where A represents a high level of care need, and C is a low level of care need)

A full assessment for NHS Continuing Healthcare is required if there are:

Two or more domains selected in column A, five or more in B or one in A and four in B; or one in a domain marked with an \* - Behaviour, Breathing, Drug Therapies or Altered State of Consciousness.

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### Decision Support Tool

The Decision Support Tool is used during a full assessment (where appropriate) and follows a checklist screen. It is not an assessment in itself but a way of bringing together and applying evidence and a summary of the person's needs to be used by the Multi-Disciplinary Team to make a recommendation to the CCG about eligibility or ineligibility.

A clear recommendation (and decision) of eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare would be expected in each of the following cases:

A level of priority needs in any one of the four domains that carry this level.

A total of two or more incidences of identified severe needs across all care domains.

A severe level need combined with needs in a number of other domains or

A number of domains with high and/or moderate needs

### Care Domains

P								P	P	P	
S	S			S	S		S	S	S		S
H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Behaviour	Cognition	Psychological/ Emotional needs	Communication	Mobility	Nutrition, Food and Drink	Continence	Skin Tissue and viability	Breathing	Drug Therapies	Altered State of Consciousness	Other significant care needs

The primary health need should be assessed by looking at all of the care needs and relating them to twelve care domains (below) **AND** four key indicators; nature, intensity, complexity and unpredictability.

### The Fast Track Tool

The Fast Track pathway tool is used when a person has a rapidly deteriorating condition and may be entering a terminal phase. It can only be completed by an 'appropriate clinician' with sufficient evidence to establish eligibility.

Where it is appropriate to use the Fast Track Pathway Tool, this replaces the need for a Checklist and DST to be completed

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### Challenging a decision not to proceed to full assessment

If a person has been screened out from full consideration following use of the Checklist, they may ask the CCG to reconsider its decision and agree to a full assessment of eligibility.

### Challenging an assessment decision

Where a full assessment has been undertaken of potential eligibility using the Decision Support Tool (or by use of the Fast Track Pathway Tool), and a decision has been reached, challenging that decision should be addressed through the local resolution procedure, initially.

### Funded Nursing Care Payment

NHS continuing healthcare must be considered, and a decision made prior to any consideration of eligibility for NHS-funded nursing care payment which is a weekly payment of £254.06 per week April 2025/26, provided by the NHS to homes providing nursing care, to support the provision of nursing care by a registered nurse.

Remember this is claimed by and paid straight to the Nursing home only if the residents has an element of the care need that is nursing/health/medical related - NOT paid towards social care needs. Check whether the Funded Nursing Care Payment has been included in the cost of care and how it will be invoiced by the home.

We can help you to establish whether you may be eligible for Continuing Healthcare. Please book an appointment for a [Care Funding and Benefit Check](#)



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