



**Dorset**  
Clinical Commissioning Group

# NHS Continuing Healthcare

Personal Health  
Commissioning

## NHS CONTINUING HEALTHCARE

This leaflet explains what NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) is and gives step-by-step information for people who have an illness, injury or disability that will need long-term or ongoing health care.

This leaflet provides information on when NHS Continuing Healthcare may be available to you. The leaflet explains the process we use to decide whether you are eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare.

### WHAT IS NHS CONTINUING HEALTHCARE?

NHS Continuing Healthcare is available only for people who are assessed as having a '**primary health need**'. NHS Continuing Healthcare is arranged and paid for by the NHS.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR NHS CONTINUING HEALTHCARE?

Eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare isn't based on whether you have a specific diagnosis, disease or health condition.

To get NHS Continuing Healthcare, you must have what is called a **primary health need**. This means that you fulfil the following criteria:

- You have known and ongoing health needs.
- Taking account of all of your needs, the main aspects or majority part of the care you require is focused on addressing and/or preventing health needs.

It is not available for people who have short-term health needs that can be met in the community, or those who are recovering from a temporary condition and have not yet reached their optimum potential. There are different pathways available for these individuals.

## WHEN IS A DECISION MADE?

Assessments will normally take place in your usual place of residence. An assessment does not normally take place in hospital as this is not the best place to make long-term decisions about your ongoing care. A full assessment will normally be undertaken when your condition is stable and your ongoing health care needs are clear.



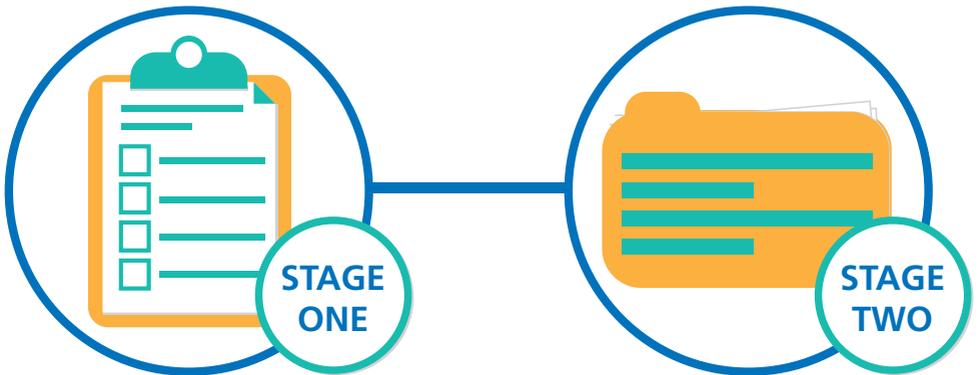
If you are due to be or have recently been discharged from hospital, you may require some support for a few weeks or months to help you regain your abilities. This support would normally be provided through services such as therapy, reablement, rehabilitation and intermediate care.

Once your condition is stable, if it is considered that you may have an ongoing **primary health need**, you will be assessed for NHS Continuing Healthcare.

## WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR CONTINUING HEALTH CARE?

There is a process that NHS and social care staff must follow. This process will normally only take place when an accurate assessment of ongoing needs can be made. It does not normally happen in hospital.

There are two stages to the NHS Continuing Healthcare assessment process. The first of these is the **checklist**. The checklist is a screening tool and does not decide if you are eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare. It only decides whether a full assessment needs to be undertaken.



A checklist is completed by a health professional or a social care professional specially trained to complete it. The checklist identifies what your needs are and shows whether you need to have a full NHS Continuing Healthcare assessment.

If the completed checklist shows that you **do not need** a full NHS Continuing Healthcare assessment, you will hear this referred to as a **negative checklist**. Your health and social workers will ensure you still have the level of support you need.



If the completed checklist shows that you **do need** a full NHS Continuing Healthcare assessment, you will hear this referred to as a **positive checklist**.

A positive checklist **doesn't** mean that you are eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare: **it only means that you need a full assessment.**

If a clinician decides that you have a rapidly deteriorating condition and may be entering a terminal phase, you will be eligible for **Fast Track Continuing Health Care.**

Please ask for the 'Fast Track CHC' information leaflet.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

If you have a positive checklist, a time will be arranged to do a full assessment. Full assessments will normally be undertaken in your usual place of residence and, if you have been in hospital or are recovering from an injury or illness, the full assessment will take place once your ongoing health needs are clear.

On discharge from hospital, NHS Interim Funding may be available to meet your needs for a short period pending a full CHC assessment. Please see the 'NHS Interim Funding' leaflet for further details.

Health and social care professionals will look at your needs in more detail to ensure you have the right support and to decide whether you have a 'primary health need'. The team will meet with you to discuss your needs and will write up their findings.

Following the meeting, a document called a **decision support tool** is filled out to record your needs and a recommendation is made on eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare. NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will review the recommendation and decide if you are eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare.



During assessment consideration will be given to the most appropriate care provision and setting for your care.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM NOT ELIGIBLE FOR NHS CONTINUING HEALTHCARE?**

You will receive a letter telling you that you are not eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare. This will include a copy of the full assessment used to support that decision. The letter contains information about what to do if you do not agree with the decision.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM ELIGIBLE FOR NHS CONTINUING HEALTHCARE?**

The NHS will pay for care to meet your assessed health and social care needs while you are eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare. How these assessed care needs are reasonably met will be decided by the CCG when developing your care and support plan.

If it is decided that your own home is the most appropriate place for your care, the NHS will pay reasonable costs to meet your assessed health and social care needs in that environment, such as any support you require from health professionals and the cost of personal care, which can include help with washing and getting dressed.

If it is decided that a care home is the most appropriate place for your care, the NHS will pay your reasonable care home fees.

If your care needs change, you may no longer be eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare, but a new full assessment will be carried out to decide this. Your care needs and care package will be reviewed after three months and every year after that, or sooner if your needs change.



## WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

If you have internet access, please visit:  
[www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/services](http://www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/services).

If you would prefer to speak to a member of the  
**NHS Dorset CCG Personal Health Commissioning Team**, please  
call us on **0300 303 4410** from **8.30am – 5pm**, Monday to Friday.