

**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 because they have:

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

NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) 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.

The Fast Track Pathway is intended for individuals who need to access NHS Continuing Healthcare quickly, with minimum delay, and with no requirement to complete the Checklist or the Decision Support Tool (DST). It is used when a clinician deems that there is insufficient time to complete a full assessment.

**What is the application process?**

With your consent an appropriate clinician will complete the Fast Track Pathway form to establish your eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare. A member of your healthcare team will explain to you why an application is being made and involve you in agreeing an end-of-life care pathway.

You will be clinically assessed by your healthcare team to understand the level of care and support you require. Whilst your care preferences will be taken into account, the NHS cannot guarantee a care provider in your chosen area (due to limited resources or due to the area where you live). As part of this process the completed The Fast Track Pathway form and a Care and Support Plan will be sent to your local CHC team~~.~~

**How is my care arranged?**

The CHC teams will work to find services to provide the care outlined in the care and support plan that you have completed with your healthcare clinician and agreed with the CHC team (in some areas it is the local healthcare or social care teams who support CHC team sourcing care from an approved list of care providers)

There may be several ways your care needs can be met through a range of care providers. Care is usually provided in one of the following ways:

* **Care homes -** this is usually the most appropriate option for people who need regular support at regular intervals. The cost that is agreed will cover the cost of your care, support, and basic accommodation.
* **Care at home** – this is usually the most appropriate option for people who need some support in short intervals (but not at regular times and may not be the same carers), and if they have family or friends who can also help. If you have a high level of complex support needs, it may not be possible for you to be cared in your own home and where all your care needs can be met.

If you already live in a care home or if you receive services at home, we will endeavour to provide continuity of services for you, so that you can be cared for by those who know you well. This can on occasion not be possible due to our contracting and commissioning arrangements, but we will inform you of this.

A letter from your local CHC team will be sent to you or your representative once the funding has been approved.

You should be aware it may take time to set up the help you need if there are not enough available care providers in your area. The NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) must approve the care home/care agency as they are the commissioners of your care. They are required to meet the needs of its population, sharing resource fairly and ensuring best value for money. All care agencies and care homes that the ICB use are registered with the Care Quality Commission.

**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 funded CHC Fast Track 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 **website**: <https://www.gov.uk/disability-benefits-helpline>

**How long does the funding last for?**

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

You should continue to be supported and reviewed by your community nursing services if you are living at home and you remain entitled to assistance from community service (e.g. GP) regardless of eligibility for CHC Fast Track.

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 CHC 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 reassessments and is therefore subject to change.

If you no longer fulfil the criteria for CHC Fast Track funding and still require an on-going package of care, you may be liable to pay for part or all your care. The local authority will undertake a social care assessment if this is the case. Depending on your circumstances your care may be funded by Adult Social Care services. 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 CHC Fast Track funding, a member of the CHC 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. If you are no longer eligible for CHC Fast Track the funding continues for up to 28 days.

**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](http://www.beaconchc.co.uk) You can also write to Beacon, 10 Napier Court, Barton Lane, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3YT.

**Contacting the team**

Your NHS Continuing Health Team contact information depends on the location of your GP.

Office opening times are Monday to Friday 9:00 – 17:00.

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| **Hull**: Phone 01482 344911 or email [hnyicb-hull.continuinghealthcare@nhs.net](mailto:hnyicb-hull.continuinghealthcare@nhs.net) |
| **East Riding of Yorkshire**: Phone 01482 672006 or email [hnyicb-ery.continuingcare@nhs.net](mailto:hnyicb-ery.continuingcare@nhs.net) |
| **North Lincolnshire**: Phone 01652 251026 or email [hnyicb-nl.continuingcare@nhs.net](mailto:hnyicb-nl.continuingcare@nhs.net) |
| **North East Lincolnshire**: Phone 0300 330 2990 or email [hnyicb-nel.chc@nhs.net](mailto:hnyicb-nel.chc@nhs.net) |
| **York**: Phone 0300 303 8294 or email [hnyicb-voy.continuing-care@nhs.net](mailto:hnyicb-voy.continuing-care@nhs.net) |
| **North Yorkshire**: Phone 0300 303 8674 or email [hnyicb-ny.continuing-care@nhs.net](mailto:hnyicb-ny.continuing-care@nhs.net) |

**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. Further information is available on the www.GOV.uk website at

* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-continuing-healthcare-and-nhs-funded-nursing-care-public-information-leaflet>
* [National framework for NHS continuing healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-framework-for-nhs-continuing-healthcare-and-nhs-funded-nursing-care)
* [NHS continuing healthcare fast-track pathway tool - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-continuing-healthcare-fast-track-pathway-tool)