

Our Ref: ID 1606

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group
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Re: Freedom of Information Request – Continuing Healthcare (CHC) Primary Health Needs Test

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received into this office on 4th January 2020.

You Asked for:

In establishing eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC), a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) must apply the Primary Health Needs Test, (Coughlan Case Law).

1. How does NHS Wirral CCG establish whether a person's needs are within/outside local authority legal limits; i.e. merely incidental or ancillary to the provision of the accommodation which a local authority is under a duty to provide and of a nature which it can be expected that an authority whose primary responsibility is to provide social services, can be expected to provide?
2. Is there one standard/benchmark applied to all CHC assessments, to establish eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare? If so, please provide details and copies of relevant documents,
OR
3. Is each case considered individually, on a case-by-case basis, according to each individual's particular needs? If so, please provide details and copies of relevant documents.

Our Response:

1. NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) follows the guidance contained within the National framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC), NHS Funded Nursing care (FNC) (revised 2018) and The Care Act (2014). The full assessment process for CHC includes screening, which often involves input from a social worker if a full assessment is required. The CHC process and documentation used are publicly available online. Please follow the link provided for further information: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/money-work-and-benefits/nhs-continuing-healthcare/>
2. Both statements regarding question 2 and question 3 apply. Each CHC application is completed in line with the National Framework. A standard Checklist template is used to collate information in the first instance. If the outcome of this stage then triggers for further assessment, a Decision Support Tool (DST) is then completed to determine whether a patient is to be recommended as eligible for CHC or FNC. The outcome of each assessment depends on the individual's needs. Each referral is considered on a

case by case basis and will include supporting evidence from professionals that know the individual. The recommendation will then go to NHS Wirral CCG's decision panel to ensure each decision is fully considered in a fair and timely manner.

3. Please see the answer to question number 2.

We hope this information is useful, however if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team (contact details at the top of this letter)

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