

# Fast Track Funding

## Information for patients and their families

### What is Fast Track funding?

NHS Continuing Healthcare Fast Track funding provides an immediate provision for a package of care at home or in a nursing home after an individual is assessed as rapidly deteriorating with a condition entering a terminal phase. Fast Track funding is intended to be short term and will be reviewed at regular intervals to reassess if the care package is still appropriate to meet the care needs, and the individual continues to rapidly deteriorate meeting the Fast Track eligibility criteria.

A health care professional (usually a nurse in the hospital or community) will assess your care needs and identify with you and your family the immediate level of care you require within your own home or nursing home.

It is not possible to replicate support services that are available in NHS settings or nursing homes (e.g. 24-hour nursing care or instant assistance from a carer) and if this level of support is assessed by a healthcare professional then Fast Track funding will commission a nursing home placement; if 24 hour level of support is required then it would usually not be possible for the individual to be cared for in their own home.

When deciding where you wish your care to be provided, it is important to consider the impact that this may have on you, your family and others around you?

- How will this affect you, your family and your family life if you wish to be at home?
- What will happen if you become unwell or need assistance at night?
- You may find that nighttime may often be when you will feel most lonely, worried and anxious
- How will you manage if you live alone and you have pain, need the toilet or need the community nurse to visit?
- If you choose to move into a nursing home, how often will your family and friends be able to visit? Will they have to travel very far? Are there specific visiting times?

## Choosing to be cared for at home

If the decision is that you wish to be care for at home, we will source a package of care to meet your assessed care needs and organise any equipment and deliver this to your home. The carers will visit several times a day for short intervals, but not at regular times and may not be the same carers for each visit.

The package of care will be provided to support your family to care for you to meet the assessed care needs. The carers who attend to undertake the care required will visit for limited periods of time during the daytime to give personal care, medications, skin care and continence care – these carers will not cook meals, undertake domestic duties or care for pets. Due to limited resources a night sitter will only attend if you have complex end of life care needs as assessed by the health care professional.

However, you should be aware that the NHS cannot always guarantee that a package of care will be available to meet your care needs (due to limited resources or due to the area where you live). If this is the case your health care professional will discuss other options with you and your family.

Your healthcare team will monitor your care needs and liaise with the Continuing Healthcare team if the package of care needs to be altered – if your care needs have increased or the package of care can be reduced to continue to meet your care needs. We have limited resources to be shared equitably for the population of Somerset.

If your care needs can no longer be met at home by your family or carers, your healthcare team will discuss with you and your family the options of moving to an alternative place for your care (either for respite care or long term) which will continue to be funded until you are no longer found eligible for Fast Track funding following a review.

## Choosing to be cared for in a care home

If you choose to be cared for in a care home, your healthcare team will support you and your family to find an appropriate care home to meet your care needs. We ask that you think of any particular care homes where you would like to stay or the area in Somerset you would like the care home to be situated.

Please be aware that NHS Somerset must approve the choice of care home as they will be the commissioners of your care and only care homes with an appropriate CQC rating will be commissioned.

## Considerations for your family

Family must make provision if they plan to continue to work or if they are planning to take a holiday. The package of care will not be increased during this time - your family must make alternative arrangements for someone to be with you during the day and night-time.

If you choose to be admitted to a care home for respite care during this time the package of care from the carers at home will be cancelled and will be requested again when you are discharged back home; we cannot always guarantee that the package of care will still be available on your day of discharge. Family also needs to be aware that the individuals care needs may have changed during this time and now may not be fit enough to return home in an ambulance, and will therefore remain in the care home for end-of-life care.

## Reassessment of your care needs and eligibility for Fast Track funding

NHS Fast Track funding is short term funding and will be reviewed within 8 weeks of the agreed funding date. This review is to determine the appropriateness of your current care package and will determine if you remain eligible for Fast Track funding (you continue to be in a rapidly deteriorating condition). You and your family will be involved in this assessment process.

## What if I am no longer eligible for NHS funding?

Following the assessment process, if you are no longer eligible for NHS Fast Track funding or ongoing NHS Continuing Healthcare funding this will be communicated to you in a letter. Your NHS Fast Track funding for your package of care or nursing home placement will be withdrawn 4 weeks after the date of the letter. If this happens, alternative funding will need to be found to pay for your care. You will be advised in the letter of the process you need to follow.

Please note this does not mean that the care you are receiving will stop, it means that it will not be funded by the NHS. Depending on your circumstances it may be funded by Adult Social Care or yourself.