

NHS Sheffield: Guidance on everyday household cost (in the home) for Patients Eligible for Continuing Healthcare

1.0 Purpose

1.1 This guidance clarifies how NHS Sheffield will determine whether to pay for everyday costs incurred by patients in their own home.

1.2 This guidance applies to patients who are eligible for continuing healthcare and for whom NHS Sheffield is the Responsible Commissioner.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Continuing Healthcare (Responsibilities) Directions 2009 states that “NHS Continuing Healthcare” means a package of care arranged and funded solely by the health service for a person aged 18 or over to meet physical or mental health needs which have arisen as a result of illness.

2.2 The National Framework for Continuing Healthcare states, “the package to be provide is that which the PCT assesses is appropriate for the individual’s needs.” (para 100).

2.3 The Practice Guidance for Continuing Healthcare states where a patient is “found to be eligible for NHS continuing healthcare, the NHS has responsibility for funding the support necessary to meet their assessed health and social care needs.” (para 2.4.1). The Guidance also states that “There is a range of everyday household costs that are expected to be covered by personal income or through welfare benefits (i.e. food, rent/mortgage interest, fuel, clothing and other normal household items). In addition, disability-related benefits (e.g. Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance) are intended to cover some disability-related costs.” (para 11.8).

2.4 NHS Sheffield approved a policy on the commissioning of care provision for patients eligible for continuing healthcare in December 2011. This policy specifies a range of factors which need to be taken into account when considering the provision of care packages. The policy allows for exceptional circumstances to be considered. The policy assists NHS Sheffield to ensure services funded under continuing healthcare are commensurate with patients’ needs.

3.0 Everyday Household Costs

3.1 There are a range of costs incurred by most households, regardless of the needs of residents, although the actual amounts may vary. These include:

- food;
- rent or mortgage;
- clothing;
- laundry;
- bed linen;
- utilities;
- TV Licence;
- Council Tax;
- Phone bills;
- internet/broadband costs

3.2 Under the directions and guidance for continuing healthcare it is not possible to state definitively that the NHS would or would not fund the above costs in every circumstance. The decision whether to fund such costs will turn on the individual patient's circumstances.

3.3 This policy does not apply to people living establishments registered by the Care Quality Commission. A different legislative framework applies for patients in these circumstances.

3.4 Everyday household costs can also include transport costs. NHS Sheffield has issued separate guidance on transport costs, in parallel to this guidance.

4.0 Funding for exceptional costs

4.1 Everyday household costs such as those listed at paragraph 3.1, will not usually be funded by NHS Sheffield. In general, such costs are unlikely to be required to meet assessed health and social care needs, as they would already be being incurred prior to primary health needs arising.

4.2 However, there may be exceptional circumstances, where it is appropriate for NHS Sheffield to fund or contribute to these costs, for patients eligible for continuing healthcare.

4.3 Exceptional circumstances will be based on the definition used in NHS Sheffield's CHC policy on the commissioning of care, which are:

- are the patient's needs significantly different to other patients with the same or similar conditions; and
- will the patient benefit significantly more from the additional or alternative services than other patients with the same or similar conditions would.

4.4 Where the patient or their care manager believes exceptional circumstances may apply, they should apply to NHS Sheffield for funding for such costs. The application should be made using the pro forma for NHS Sheffield's Resource Panel. Decisions on whether exceptional circumstances apply will be made by an Director of NHS Sheffield, following a recommendation from Resource Panel.

5.0 Further Support

5.1 Patients who are struggling to meet their everyday household costs may be able to get advice from Advice Sheffield, who can be contacted on (0114) 2803908.

6.0 Governance

6.1 This guidance is issued to support NHS Sheffield to implement its policy on CHC commissioning of care. The guidance is subordinate to this policy.

6.2 This guidance will be reviewed at the same time as NHS Sheffield's policy on CHC commissioning of care.

Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Notes
0.1	23 January 2012	E Harrigan	First version circulated internally for consultation.
0.2 (version approved)	17 April 2012	E Harrigan	Following comments from internal and external colleagues.