

Urgent NHS-Funded Nursing Care Process for Hospital Discharges and Emergency Nursing Home Admissions from the Community

1.0 What is NHS-Funded Nursing Care (FNC)

NHS-Funded Nursing Care is the funding provided by the NHS to care homes providing nursing, to support the provision of nursing by a registered nurse for those assessed as eligible.

1.1 Eligibility for FNC following a positive Checklist and completed DST

If an individual does not qualify for NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC), the need for care from a registered nurse should be determined. If the individual has such a need and it is determined that the individual's overall needs would be most appropriately met in a care home providing nursing care, then this would consequently lead to eligibility for FNC. Once this need is agreed, the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) responsibility to pay a flat rate contribution arises (currently £158.16 per week).

1.2 Eligibility for FNC following a negative Checklist

In certain circumstances, an individual who has been found not eligible for CHC Checklist stage may still need an assessment for FNC. If an individual has a negative Checklist this simply means that they do not require assessment of eligibility for CHC. However, they may require the provision of nursing care by a registered nurse in a care home with nursing. The decision regarding this must be based on an assessment using the Record of Registered Nursing Care Needs form (see appendix 1), which specifies their day-to-day care and support needs.

1.3 Special circumstances and changes in circumstances

There will be circumstances where people need to be admitted to a care home under locally agreed arrangements and for short periods of time, such as:

- In an emergency or crisis;
- When those placed in a care home are awaiting the completion of FNC determination of care by a registered nurse;
- For respite, recuperative care or a short break

Such short periods in a care home providing nursing care of less than six weeks qualify for FNC. However there is no need to carry out an assessment if it is already known at the outset that the stay will be less than six weeks and the individual has already been assessed as requiring nursing care using the Record of Registered Nursing Care Needs form (see appendix 1).

2.0 Purpose of this document

This document sets out the local process for discharging individuals, whose GP is registered with one of the four Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (Lincs CCGs), from an acute hospital setting into a nursing placement for further assessment to determine their longer term care needs. It also sets out the local process for emergency placements from the community setting into a nursing home.

Lincs CCGs, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and United Lincolnshire Hospital Trust (ULHT) have agreed the following process to support individuals with nursing needs who require a nursing placement to be discharged from hospital in a timely manner avoiding an extended hospital stay and associated risks. Lincs CCGs have further agreed the process to support individuals with nursing needs who require a temporary placement into a nursing home as a result of a 'crisis' in their current residential (care only) placement or their own home.

The guidance takes account of, and where appropriate, makes reference, to relevant sections of the following documents:-

- The National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care *October 2018 (Revised)* (National Framework)
- NHS-funded Nursing Care Practice Guidance December 2018 (FNC Practice Guidance)
- The National Health Service Commissioning Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups (Responsibilities and Standing Rules) Regulations 2012 (Standing rules)
- The Care Act 2014
- The Care and Support Statutory Guidance June 2014 *issued under the Care Act 2014*

3.0 Process for Urgent FNC Funding from hospital

- 3.1 The individual will be deemed medically stable for discharge.
- 3.2 A nursing needs assessment will be completed by a nurse from the hospital discharge team using the Record of Registered Nursing Care Needs form (see appendix 1). Urgent FNC can be requested, and approved by the CCG, prior to the identification of a nursing home placement. An appropriate discharge date should be agreed as soon as an appropriate placement is identified.
- 3.3 The Nursing Needs Assessment form must be emailed via secure e-mail (nhs.net only) to the Lincs CCGs Continuing Healthcare Team liwccg.chc@nhs.net as well as to the hospital social care team.
- 3.4 Where appropriate or required, the Adult Social Care (ASC) worker will support the individual and / or their family to find an appropriate care home with a vacancy that can meet their assessed needs. In some circumstances the individual may request that ASC are not involved, in which case the discharge hub will support the individual as required.

- 3.5 28 days FNC funding starts from the day the person is transferred to home
- 3.6 The person who is arranging the discharge (i.e. Adult Care worker or discharge team) will inform the individual and / or their family/ representative of the process, and will give them an 'Urgent FNC' leaflet.
- 3.7 A copy of the completed Record of Registered Nursing Care Needs form, along with a letter confirming the funding for 28 days, will be sent to the individual and the care home by the Continuing Healthcare team.
- 3.8 Within 14 days of admission to the care home an NHS Continuing Healthcare Checklist will be completed by a registered nurse employed by the care home.
- 3.9 All Checklists, negative and positive must be securely e-mailed to the CHC team at liwccg.chc@nhs.net. A copy will be given to the individual by the care home nurse and a further copy will be retained in the individual's care home notes.

4.0 Outcomes

4.1 Positive Checklists

FNC funding will continue until a DST has been completed and a decision regarding the individual's eligibility for CHC has been made. Ideally this will be completed within 28 days of admission to the care home.

If after completion of the DST the individual is found eligible for NHS CHC, funding will be backdated to the date the individual was admitted to the care home. A review will be undertaken in 3 months by a CHC practitioner.

In cases where the individual is found not eligible for NHS CHC but eligible for FNC the FNC funding will continue and a review will be undertaken in 3 months by a CHC practitioner.

Where the individual is found not eligible for either NHS CHC or FNC, the FNC funding approved to support their discharge from hospital will stop 28 days from the date of their admission to the care home (or immediately if more than 28 days have already passed). Where requested, the allocated adult care worker will work with the individual and their family/representative to identify an appropriate longer term care environment.

4.2 Negative Checklists

If the Checklist is negative and it is identified that the individual has ongoing nursing needs within the Checklist, the CHC team will arrange for a CHC practitioner to undertake an FNC review within 3 months. The Record of Registered Nursing Care Needs assessment document will be updated. FNC funding will continue.



Where the Checklist is negative and the individual has no identified ongoing nursing needs the FNC funding will stop 28 days from the date of their admission to the care home (or immediately if more than 28 days have already passed). Where requested, the allocated adult care worker will work with the individual and their family/representative to identify an appropriate longer term care environment.

There will be no planned review undertaken by Lincs CCGs.

Should there be a significant change in the individual's care needs in the future that may impact on their eligibility for NHS CHC or FNC a new Checklist can be completed.

APPENDIX 1

Record of Registered Nursing Care Needs Form



Record of Registered
Nursing Care Needs F