

Changes to NHS Continuing Healthcare

SIA continues to work as part of a consortia of voluntary sector organisations, led by Beacon, to provide an Information and Advice service for NHS Continuing Healthcare. SIA has been working with Beacon to understand the implications of the Emergency Coronavirus Legislation on NHS Continuing Healthcare assessment and provision.

The full guidance on the implications of the Emergency Coronavirus Legislation that Beacon have published can [be found here](#). However, SIA believes that the most relevant parts of the guidance for the majority of our members can be summarised as follows.

NHS Continuing Healthcare Assessments

NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) assessments are likely to be postponed by most CCGs during the present Covid 19 crises but a few CCGs, if they have capacity, may continue to undertake assessments (and reviews of current care packages) via virtual technology ie Skype, Microsoft Teams etc.

Even if an individual CCG is postponing all NHS CHC assessments it is important to still request an assessment by asking for a checklist to be performed in the normal manner, via DNs, Social Workers, GPs etc. If an individual is unable to obtain a Checklist it is important that they write to the CCG explaining that they believe they need an assessment for NHS CHC and have attempted to obtain a checklist without success, this way the request can be logged and followed up once things return to normal (make sure the letter is dated).

Appeals for NHS Continuing Healthcare

Individuals who disagree with a previous CHC eligibility decision are still able to access the appeal process by requesting a review of that decision (both Local Resolution and Independent Review). However, the timeframe for CCGs to deal with that request will be relaxed. So we would encourage individuals to lodge their appeal in the normal way, to ensure that the request is logged and will not be overlooked once this crises is over.

There is currently no further guidance on appeals that are already in the system. However, as CHC staff will be redeployed to support the discharge and care planning of COVID-19 patients, we anticipate that appeal meetings and panels will become 'virtual' or postponed. There will probably also be delays in processing other elements of appeal work, such as obtaining care records etc.

Please remember that SIA are here to support you and if you have any NHS Continuing Healthcare queries please contact us through our FREEPHONE number 0800 980 0501, website or by emailing a.jamieson@spinal.co.uk.