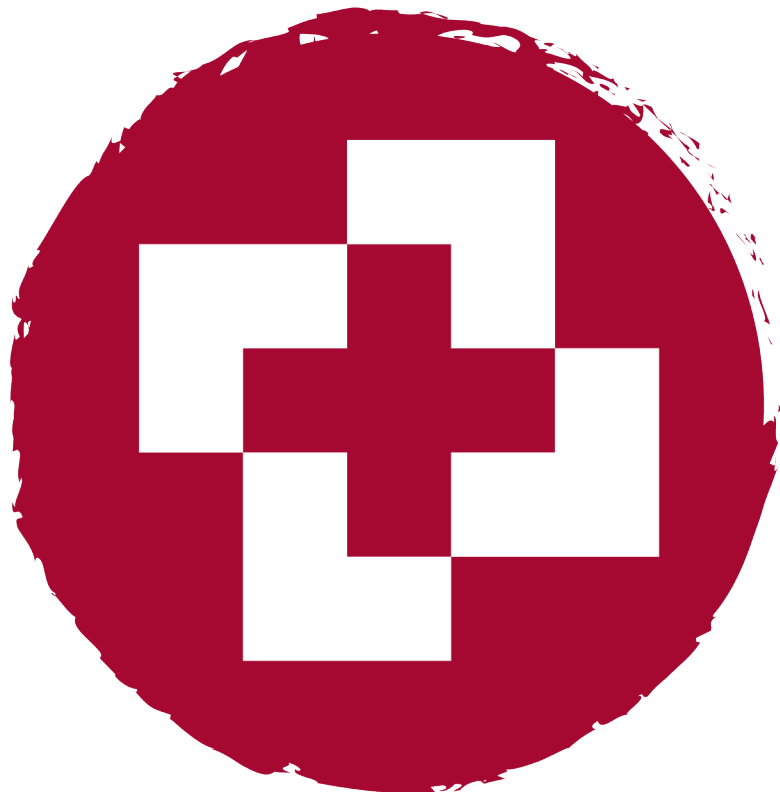


NHS CONTINUING HEALTHCARE

FACTSHEETS



HOW DO I ACCESS NHS CONTINUING HEALTHCARE

Accessing NHS Continuing Healthcare

To establish whether you are eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare funding you will go through an assessment process. The assessment will be arranged and led by your Clinical Commissioning Group* (CCG), but may involve someone from your Local Authority – usually a social worker.

You can initiate the assessment process by requesting a NHS Continuing Healthcare referral from any health or social care professional, e.g. your GP, district nurse, social worker etc. They will refer you to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) who will then contact you.

The Assessment & Decision-Making Process

To establish whether you have a **primary health need**** the assessment looks at your care needs in 12 areas known as Care Domains. The 12 Care Domains are:

- **Breathing** – assesses the effect of breathlessness and the need for supportive therapy.
- **Nutrition (food & drink)** – assesses issues such as malnutrition, dehydration and aspiration.
- **Continence** – assesses bladder and bowel management.
- **Skin (including tissue viability)** – assesses the effect on skin integrity.
- **Mobility** – assesses the needs of individuals with impaired mobility.
- **Communication** – assesses the ability to express and understand, not interpretation of language.
- **Psychological & Emotional** – assesses the impact on an individual's health and well-being.
- **Cognition** – assesses the ability to understand and engage in care planning and delivery.
- **Behaviour** – assesses the level of challenging behaviour.
- **Drug Therapies & Medication** – assesses the intensity of symptoms and the knowledge & skills required to manage them.
- **Altered States of Consciousness** – assesses the level of consistency of consciousness.
- **Other Significant Care Needs** – assesses needs that do not easily fit into any of the other care domains

There are 2 stages to the assessment process.

Stage 1: Checklist

The checklist is a screening process to identify people who need a full consideration of whether they have a primary health need**. Broadly speaking it looks at whether the individual has sufficient need in a sufficient number of domains to warrant further investigation. It looks at the individuals need in each care domain and marks it at one of 3 levels:

- A – meets or exceeds the described need.
- B – borderline, nearly meets the described need.
- C – clearly does not meet the described need.

To qualify for a full consideration the individual must achieve a minimum score as follows:

- 2 or more As, or
- 5 or more Bs, or
- 1 A and 4 Bs, or
- 1 A in one of the following domains
 - Behaviour
 - Breathing
 - Drug Therapies & Medication
 - Altered States of Consciousness

SIA believes that all individuals with tetraplegia should satisfy this first stage and be entitled for a full NHS Continuing Healthcare assessment. It is possible for the checklist to be bypassed if everyone agrees that the individual is entitled for a full consideration.

Stage 2: Full Assessment

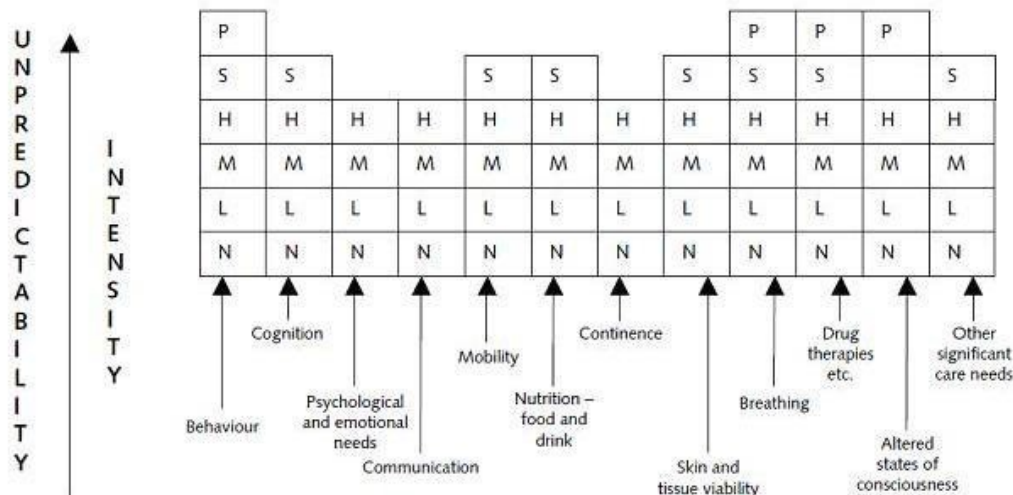
The second stage involves an in-depth and detailed assessment of the level of care need in each domain using the Decision Support Tool (DST). The DST must be completed by a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) which must consist of 2 or more health or social care professionals.

The assessors will be looking for evidence of whether the nature and/or complexity and/or intensity and/or unpredictability of a person's needs are such that they have a primary health need **.

In each care domain the level of need will be scored at up to 6 levels:

P – Priority
S – Severe
H – High

M – Moderate
L – Low
N – None



(As the diagram illustrates not all domains are scored up to the highest two levels).

Once the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) has completed the Decision Support Tool (DST) assessment they will make a recommendation on whether the individual is eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare to a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) decision-making panel who will take the final decision.

A clear recommendation of eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare would be expected if an individual scores:

- 1 priority need, or
- 2 severe needs.

A recommendation of eligibility may well also be indicated if there is:

- 1 severe need, together with need in a number of other domains, or
- A number of domains with high and/or moderate needs.

Other Assessments

Nursing Needs Assessment

In some areas a Nursing Needs Assessment may be completed alongside the Decision Support Tool. While this assessment is not a

formal part of the NHS Continuing Healthcare assessment it can form part of the evidence that the Multidisciplinary Team takes into consideration when making a recommendation to the decision-making panel.

Social Care Assessment

In some areas, particularly when an individual is initially being assessed for NHS Continuing Healthcare eligibility, they may conduct a Social Care Assessment at the same time as the Decision Support Tool. This is usually so that if the individual is judged to be ineligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare they can be referred directly to social services.

Other Documentation

There may be additional assessment documentation in different areas that again are not a formal part of the NHS Continuing Healthcare assessment, but may be used in making the final decision on eligibility.

More Information

SIA Academy has produced a NHS Continuing Healthcare Information Pack, to request a copy please use the email below.

If you would like to find out more about NHS Continuing Healthcare you can download [The National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS Funded Nursing Care](#).

It is very important that you prepare thoroughly in advance of a NHS Continuing Healthcare assessment. SIA's NHS Continuing Healthcare Information Pack can help with this preparation and you can also contact the NHS Continuing Healthcare Adviser.

More information about preparing for an assessment is available in our fact sheet, [Preparing for a NHS Continuing Healthcare Assessment](#)

For further information contact: CHC@spinal.co.uk

Disclaimer

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About SIA



The Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) is the leading national user-led charity for spinal cord injured (SCI) people. Being user led, we are well placed to understand the everyday needs of living with spinal cord injury and are here to meet those needs by providing key services to share information and experiences, and to campaign for change ensuring each person can lead a full and active life. We are here to support you from the moment your spinal cord injury happens, and for the rest of your life.

For more information contact us via the following:

Spinal Injuries Association
SIA House
2 Trueman Place
Oldbrook
Milton Keynes
MK6 2HH

T: 01908 604 191 (Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm)

T: 0800 980 0501 (Freephone Advice Line, Mon – Fri, 11am – 1pm/2pm – 4.30pm)

W: www.spinal.co.uk

E: sia@spinal.co.uk

Charity No: 1054097



Please support SIA

SIA relies on fundraising, donations and gifts in wills to provide services that help spinal cord injured people rebuild their lives.

With your help, we can provide the right support to spinal cord injured people and their families and friends so they can enjoy a full and independent life after injury. Your donation today will go towards changing someone's life.

I would like to give: £15 ☐ £20 ☐ £53 ☐ other amount £.....

Method of payment

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order/CAF voucher made payable to Spinal Injuries Association.

☐ I would like to pay by Mastercard/Visa/Maestro/Switch (delete as appropriate)

Card number

Start date

Expiry Date

Security Code

Signature

Date.....

Name.....

Address

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Postcode Tel no.....

Email address.....

Please gift aid my donation ☐

If you tick the box it means for every £1 you donate we can claim an extra 25p from the taxman, at no extra cost to you. You need to pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax we reclaim from HM Revenue and Customs – currently 25p in every £1 you give.

Please send your donation to: FREEPOST SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION or you can donate online at www.spinal.co.uk

Thank you for your support!