

Continuing Healthcare

1	POLICY DRAFTED BY:	Commissioning Manager
2	ACCOUNTABLE DIRECTOR:	Director of Commissioning
3	APPLIES TO:	All patients eligible for NHS fully funded continuing healthcare
4	COMMITTEE & DATE APPROVED:	Quality Committee
5	VERSION:	1
6	RELATED DOCUMENTS:	<p>National Framework for NHS continuing healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care</p> <p>NHS Continuing Healthcare Checklist</p> <p>Decision support tool for NHS continuing healthcare</p> <p>Fast Track Pathway Tool for NHS Continuing Healthcare</p> <p>National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care (revised November 2012): Equality Analysis</p> <p>The NHS Continuing Healthcare (Responsibilities of Social Services Authorities) Directions 2013</p> <p>NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care: Public Information Leaflet</p>
7	DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	19/09/2013
8	DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:	September 2016

BEFORE USING THIS POLICY ALWAYS ENSURE YOU ARE USING THE MOST UP TO DATE VERSION

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date	Version	Action	Amendments
6/9/2013	1	First Version written by Sara Little, Commissioning Manager, and reviewed by George Howard, Head of Mental Health and Continuing Healthcare	None

1. Introduction

Islington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) must comply with the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care. Where the framework allows for local commissioning decisions, this policy will set the organisation's standards and intentions for the provision of the care for people who have been assessed as eligible for consideration of or in receipt of fully funded NHS continuing healthcare.

2. Policies statement

Islington CCG's policies set out the organisation's standards and intentions, and are written with the aim of being as clear and comprehensive as possible. However, we operate in a dynamic and evolving work environment and attention should be paid to the spirit of the policy as well as the letter. Policies by themselves cannot guarantee effective behaviour or the delivery of key objectives. While they are designed to support the CCG, and the people working within it, our success depends on continuous, high quality effort by everyone the policy covers. Therefore thought must be given to good practice when applying or interpreting any of the CCG's policies, and you should read any guidance or supporting documentation that relates to this policy to help you do this.

3. Purpose and Scope of the Policy

The policy aims to provide local guidance on Islington's CCGs approach to choice, risk, and fiscal responsibility as it relates to NHS continuing healthcare.

4. Who this policy applies to

The policy applies to Islington CCG employees and staff, who are responsible for the commissioning of NHS continuing healthcare, and Providers, who are commissioned by Islington CCG, for the provision of NHS continuing healthcare.

5. Policy

Choice

The treatments, care, and equipment required to meet complex, intense and unpredictable health needs often depend on highly trained professionals for safe delivery, management, and clinical supervision. Specialised care, particularly for people with complex disabilities, may only be provided in nursing home or hospital settings, and may be distant from the patient's ordinary place of residence. The factors above mean there is likely to be limited choice of a safe and affordable package of care.

Given that, Islington CCG will provide a package of care 'that which the CCG assesses is appropriate for the individual's needs.' Islington CCG aims to commission services using models that maximise personalisation and individual control and that reflect individual's preferences, as far as possible.

The starting point for agreeing the package should be the individual's preferences. Islington CCG should advise the patient of all options available and the benefits and risks of each. In situations where the model of support preferred by the individual will be more expensive than other options, Islington CCG will take comparative costs and value for money into account when determining the model of support that will be provided. Islington CCG will consider the following in the decision:

- The genuine costs of alternative models (e.g. that actual costs of supporting the person in a care home rather than an assumed standard care home cost)
- The actual costs of supporting the person in their own home based on the individual's assessed needs and agreed desired outcomes
- The balance of cost against other factors in the individual's case including risk, psychological need, and other circumstances

Director level approval should be sought when the preferred package of care is over 10% in excess of the alternative models.

Risk

Islington CCG expects a responsible approach to risk taking. We see people as being the experts on their own lives and strive to work with them as equal partners. This includes taking on board their views and suggestions on how to manage risk. The governing principle for dealing with independence, choice, and risk for all activities surrounding a person's choices about their daily living is: 'People have the right to live their lives to the full as long as that doesn't stop others from doing the same.' To put the principle into practice, Islington CCG expects those supporting individuals to:

- Help people have choice and control over their lives
- Recognise that making a choice can involve some risk
- Respect people's rights and those of their family carers
- Help people understand their responsibilities and the implications of their choices, including risks
- Acknowledge that there will always be some risk, and that trying to remove it altogether can outweigh the quality of life benefits for the person
- Continue existing arrangements for safeguarding people

Where there is a threat to the safety of Islington CCG staff or its agents, the CCG retains the right to take any action it considers necessary to remove the threat including immediate withdrawal of the care provision.

Fiscal Responsibility

Islington CCG holds the responsibility to promote a comprehensive health service on behalf of the Secretary of State and not to exceed its financial allocations. It is expected to take account of patient choice, but must do so in the context of those two responsibilities.

In the event that an individual has been assessed and found to be eligible for NHS continuing healthcare they will no longer be able to receive funding from the Local Authority towards their care even if they decline NHS funding.

All packages of care will be follow Islington's Expenditure Control Procedure, which aims to ensure decision making on the provision of continuing care will:

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- be robust, fair, consistent and transparent,
- be based on the objective assessment of the patient's clinical need, safety and best interests,
- will have regard for the safety and appropriateness of care packages to those involved in care delivery
- will involve the individual and their family or advocate where possible and appropriate,
- take into account the need for the CCG to allocate its financial resources in the most cost effective way,
- support choice to the extent possible in the light of the above factors
- be consistent with the principles and values of the NHS Constitution
- take into account an individual's needs for both their health and their wellbeing

In the event an individual is found eligible for NHS continuing healthcare whilst in acute NHS care or in a NHS funded placements, the individual or family must seek prior approval from the CCG for any change in the care package location unless they intend to pay for care privately. A patient will not be treated differently to another NHS patient because the individual previously received privately funded treatment.

In the event an individual becomes entitled to NHS continuing healthcare and has an existing high-cost care package in place, Islington CCG will consider funding the full cost of the existing higher-cost package until a decision is made to meet the higher cost package on an on-going basis or to arrange an alternative placement. The consideration will be in line with the principles of choice outlined above.

6. Breaches of Policy

Failure to comply with the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care will require an incident report and action plan from the parties involved.

Failure to comply with the guidance as outlined in this policy should be brought to the attention of the Director of Commissioning, who may chose to report the issue to the Quality Committee.

7. References

All related documents can be found on the Department of Health website.

Islington CCG procedures and key documents supporting the implementation of this policy can be found on the Blue Network under Joint Commissioning/Continuing Healthcare/Governance.