

Continuing Care

Factsheet

Introduction

This Factsheet is about Continuing NHS Healthcare funding. It should be read together with our '[How to Complain](#)' webpage, available on the 'Making A Complaint' tab.

People living in care homes or receiving care at home may be entitled to receive Continuing NHS Healthcare funding to meet the cost of their care needs if their physical and/or mental healthcare needs meet the eligibility criteria. Health Boards, to whom all requests for funding should be made in the first instance, will need to consider each person's care needs in detail to determine whether or not their 'primary need' is for healthcare. If a 'primary healthcare need' exists the Health Board is required to meet the costs of that person's care and/or make suitable arrangements for their healthcare needs to be met. Continuing NHS Healthcare funding is not means tested.

You can ask your local Health Board to assess the needs of a person currently receiving care and/or request a retrospective assessment of past care needs. However, there is now a one year rolling cut off period for retrospective claims and claims for care before that period will no longer be considered. You may have to

wait some time for your claim to be considered. More details about the relevant time-frames for submitting a claim and other useful information can be found at web links on the next page.

What we can do

If you think that a decision by the Health Board to refuse Continuing NHS Healthcare funding for you, your relative or a person you look after, is flawed, we may be able to help you. We can usually look at your complaint if:

- A request for an assessment or review was unreasonably refused or has been unreasonably delayed (see also note above);
- The process of assessment of your claim was significantly flawed;
- The reason for refusing funding was illogical, flawed, or not based on evidence and that those flaws are likely to have made the decision unreasonable.

What we cannot do

We cannot:

- Undertake our own assessment of health care needs;
- Help you make a claim for Continuing NHS Healthcare funding (there are other organisations who may do this – see ‘further information’ below);
- Tell you whether Continuing NHS Healthcare funding should have been granted or replace the Health Board’s decision and direct them to pay Continuing NHS Healthcare funding.

Issues to bear in mind

If we uphold your complaint we may make recommendations to the Health Board about what they should do. This may include a request to carry out a new assessment of healthcare needs, or to hold a new panel to consider your appeal. You do not need to make your complaint to us using a solicitor or any other advocate; our service is free and impartial and we aim to make the process as easy to follow for complainants as possible.

Further information

You may like to consider contacting the following organisations for advice:

Age Cymru can provide information and advice. You can contact them by phone on **08000 223 444** or there is more information on their website – www.agecymru.org.uk

MIND can provide help and advice on a range of mental health issues contact by phone on **0300 123 3393** or there is more information on their website – www.mind.org.uk

The **Alzheimer's Society** can provide help and support. You can contact them on **0300 222 1122** or there is more information on their website – www.alzheimers.org.uk

Your **local Community Health Council (CHC)** can provide advice and support with making a complaint. Contact details for your local CHC can be obtained via your local telephone directory or via the Board of Community Health Councils in Wales' website at www.patienthelp.wales.nhs.uk or their helpline on **0845 6447814**.

Details of **your local Health Board** can be found at www.wales.nhs.uk/directory.cfm

Details of the process for **claiming continuing NHS healthcare** can be found at <http://www.cciss.org.uk/home>

We are independent and impartial; we cannot order public bodies to do what we recommend – but, in practice, they almost always do. Examples of cases that we have looked at can be found on our website, under the ‘Publications’ tab on the ‘Our Findings’ page.

Contact us

If you are unsure whether we would be able to look into your complaint, please [contact us](#) on 0300 790 0203 or ask@ombudsman.wales

Also available in Welsh.

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

ask@ombudsman.wales

0300 790 0203 Our phone line is open 10am-12:30pm and 1:30pm-4pm Monday – Friday