

Full assessment

If the checklist at the initial assessment indicates that you can go forward for a full assessment, a multi-professional team will carry out an assessment of your needs. They will complete a **decision support tool** to help them decide whether you are eligible for continuing healthcare funding.

Both the screening checklist and the decision support tool will then be considered by NHS Somerset CCG for a final decision to be made.

Further information

Additional information is available on the following websites:

- Somerset CCG website at www.somersetccg.nhs.uk
- Somerset Choices website at www.somersetchoices.org.uk
- NHS website at www.nhs.uk

Alternatively, information can be obtained by emailing the continuing healthcare enquiries email address detailed on the back of this leaflet.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS
NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group
Freepost RRKL-XKSC-ACSG
Yeovil
Somerset
BA22 8HR

Phone: **0800 0851 067**

Email: somccg.pals@nhs.net

For enquiries about continuing healthcare funding

Please email:
somccg.chc.enquiries@nhs.net

Eligibility for NHS Funded Continuing Healthcare



Information on arrangements for the provision of continuing healthcare by Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group

What is NHS funded continuing healthcare?

This is a term used to describe care arranged and funded by the NHS. It is provided where a person has significant complex, unpredictable and intense health needs and requires regular supervision by a healthcare professional.

Continuing Healthcare funding is determined on care needs and not based on diagnosis or illness. It is subject to regular review.

Who does continuing healthcare funding apply to?

People aged over 18 years needing continuing healthcare for care needs arising out of illness or disability.

In all cases eligibility depends on a professional assessment of healthcare needs. These healthcare needs may change over time, and individuals found eligible may not remain eligible for life. Ongoing eligibility will be determined through regular review by a continuing healthcare assessor.

Someone to speak on your behalf

You are entitled to nominate an advocate to represent your views or speak on your behalf.

An advocate can help you tell other people what your needs or wishes are if you don't feel able to do this for yourself. An advocate could be someone you trust, like a family member, a neighbour or carer. If you haven't got anyone to speak up for you, there are organisations that can help you.

You do **not** need to have legal representation but occasionally people choose to have a legally qualified person to act as their advocate.

In such situations it is important to note that this legally qualified person has the same status in the process as any other advocate and may not act in a legal capacity. This means that they are not acting as a legal representative in this context, they are acting as an advocate. They are there to support you to tell other people what your needs and wishes are.

How is the decision about this care made?

Screening assessment

Your healthcare professional or social worker will complete a **screening checklist**. This will determine whether you meet the criteria to be put forward for a full assessment by NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

The screening checklist is set deliberately low and is not an indication of eligibility. Most people who meet the criteria to go forward for a full assessment will not be found eligible.

You will be informed in writing whether you will be referred for a full assessment. If you do not agree with the decision, you can raise your concerns with the NHS Somerset CCG Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) - contact details are on the back of this leaflet. PALS will pass your concerns on to the CCGs Continuing Healthcare team.

If you are put forward for a full assessment this does not imply that you will be eligible for NHS continuing care

