



Walsall Council

Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group

**POLICY FOR THE PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT
FOR WALSALL CCG PATIENTS
FUNDED UNDER NHS CONTINUING
HEALTHCARE/FUNDED NURSING CARE**

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Improving Health
and Wellbeing for Walsall

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1. INTRODUCTION

The national framework for NHS Continuing Health Care (CHC) and NHS Funded Nursing Care (FNC) makes clear that people in receipt of NHS continuing health care continue to be entitled to access the full range of primary, community, secondary and other health services. This includes the provision of equipment.

There are several routes by which equipment is provided:

- a) If the individual is, or will be, supported in a care-home setting, the care home may be required to provide certain equipment as part of regulatory standards or as part of its contract with the CCG. Further details of the regulatory standards can be found on the Care Quality Commission's website at www.cqc.org.uk
- b) In accordance with the principles set out in paragraphs 113–117 (National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care – November 2012 revised) individuals who are entitled to NHS continuing healthcare have an entitlement – on the same basis as other patients – to joint equipment services. CCGs should ensure that the availability to those in receipt of NHS Continuing Healthcare is taken into account in the planning, commissioning and funding arrangements for these services.
- c) Some individuals will require bespoke equipment (or other non-bespoke equipment that is not available through routes (a) and (b) above) to meet specific assessed needs identified in their NHS Continuing Healthcare care plan. CCG's should make appropriate arrangements to meet these needs. CCG's should ensure that there is clarity about which of the above arrangements is applicable in each individual case.

The purpose of this policy is to provide clarity on how the arrangements described above will be applied. It sets out the procedures to be followed in each case and defines which equipment is part of the 'routine' provision of equipment and which are bespoke to meet the individual's specific needs. Providers need to ensure equity between patients accessing equipment is effectively monitored and reviewed.

2. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This policy applies to all patients for whom Walsall CCG is the responsible commissioner (i.e. those registered with a Walsall GP) and who require the provision of equipment in their own home or a nursing home as part of an assessment of their clinical needs.

3. TYPE AND RANGE OF EQUIPMENT

There are two main categories of equipment provision:

3.1 Routine equipment

This is defined as equipment which is provided on a regular basis from the joint equipment service. This includes:

- Pressure relieving mattresses for low/medium and high risk
- Profiling/hospital bed
- Bathing equipment (e.g. shower chairs)
- Toileting (e.g. commode chairs, raised toilet seats)
- Walking aids
- Lifting and handling equipment
- Emergency Suction Apparatus
- Nebulisers and tubing

Routine equipment is provided for people living in the community via the Integrated Community Equipment Service (ICES) and includes toileting or hygiene equipment, mobility equipment and pressure relieving equipment assessed according to need by the relevant professional.

The ordering of routine items for CHC eligible patients will be the same as the normal process for all patients in the community who require equipment to support them at home.

For people in nursing homes, this type and range of equipment is normally provided as part of contracted care as defined in the contract with nursing homes. Providers of nursing care are required to consider equipment provision when assessing how they will meet the needs of such patients before accepting the referral and accepting the terms of the contract.

Nursing homes are required to be fit for purpose. In general terms this means that they should provide all equipment which meets the normal care needs of patients for whom they are registered. Nursing homes which provide a specialist service (which is often reflected in a higher cost) would be expected to provide a greater range of equipment

consistent with the area of care in which they specialise

3.2 **Bespoke equipment**

This is defined as a piece of equipment that has been assessed for and needed for an aspect of clinical care that is unique to that individual. This includes:

- Specialist chairs
- Ventilation equipment (e.g. Ventilators, CPAP/BIPAP)
- Suction apparatus (if constantly needed)
- Turning beds
- Humidifiers for use with oxygen

4. PROCESS FOR APPROVAL OF BESPOKE EQUIPMENT

Following an assessment which identifies a bespoke equipment need, the assessing clinician will make a written request to ICES utilising the bespoke equipment requisition form. The Clinician should identify on the form if the patient is eligible for CHC. ICES will request “panel “authorisation for the identified piece of equipment and will then forward to CHC commissioner for funding approval. ICES will then place the order for the equipment.

Where there is a delay in the provision of equipment, ICES will loan the items (if available) on a temporary basis to enable the patient’s needs to be met in the interim period. This is likely to occur for equipment required for patients to be discharged from hospital. The replacement will then enter the ICES stock once received.

5. PROVISION OF NURSING EQUIPMENT

5.1 **Sub-cutaneous fluid giving sets**

For CHC patients residing in nursing homes: these will be provided by the nursing home as part of the assessed need and contract for care. This should be reflected in the contract price.

For FNC patients in nursing homes: the nursing home will notify the commissioning team for continuing healthcare of the need so that delivery can be arranged via the Walsall Healthcare Trust service CHC Nurse Assessors.

5.2 **Profiling beds**

ICES will arrange delivery and installation of hospital beds for clients in their own home. This will include bespoke beds which the CCG may fund if this need has been assessed by a specialist practitioner.

5.3 Continence Products

Continence products will be supplied to patients in nursing homes who are eligible for FNC.

For patients who are eligible for CHC, continence products will be supplied by the nursing home as part of the contract price.

6. COLLECTION AND MAINTENANCE

When equipment is no longer needed due to change in condition or the death of a patient ICES will collect and store on behalf of Walsall CCG. The equipment will be cleaned according to ICES policies and stored. It can then be re-used for an alternative client if it meets the assessed need of the client.

ICES will undertake annual servicing for all equipment supplied and arrange repairs/spares as required with a recharge to the CCG for the repair.

7. PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT TO NURSING HOMES

In general terms nursing homes are expected to be “fit for purpose”. This means that they should be able to provide the full range of care for the type of patients for which they are registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and for whom they have contracted for care. It should not therefore be necessary for the CCG to provide pressure relieving equipment, including pressure mattresses and cushions.

Specialist homes, which normally charge a much higher weekly costs for specialist care, are expected to provide a greater range of equipment suitable for the area in which they specialise (e.g. spinal injuries, MS)

The CCG may arrange for the loan of a piece of equipment if it is felt it is necessary to meet the assessed need of a client because:

- The patient is being discharged from hospital and the nursing home of choice does not have a mattress/profiling bed available as all their stocks are in use. In this case, the CCG will arrange for the supply or hire of a mattress via ICE’s for an interim period (not exceeding 4 weeks) until the nursing home has a mattress/bed available.

8. REFERENCES

National Framework for NHS Continuing Health Care (Revised November 2012)

NHS Continuing Health Care Practice Guidance (November 2012)

Non stock requisition form for bespoke equipment (ICES)

