

Fast Track Pathway Tool for NHS Continuing Healthcare July 2007

Notes

1. This tool is to help clinicians make a decision to fast track an individual for NHS Continuing Healthcare. We are publishing it along with the NHS Continuing Healthcare Decision Support Tool and Needs Checklist, to accompany the new National Framework guidance. This is to allow users to become familiar with the tools and allow training to be developed before implementation. However, as the analysis of the data from the PCTs who have been testing the tools is not complete, we may need to make final changes in a slightly revised version, to be published shortly before the implementation date of 1 October 2007.
2. An individual with a rapidly deteriorating condition, which may be entering a terminal phase, may need NHS Continuing Healthcare funding to enable their needs to be urgently met (e.g. to allow them to go home to die or to allow appropriate end-of-life support to be put in place). This would be a primary health need because of the rate of the deterioration.
3. This Fast Track Tool would usually be used in a hospital setting, but could also be used in other settings. It will usually be used by a member of a multi-disciplinary team, such as a nurse or a doctor. The National Framework guidance will help you understand the purpose of this tool, but we highly recommend that a clinician who wants to use it should attend national training, or regional training using national training materials, before starting.
4. Although the PCT will have to approve the decision, because of the urgency of the request, appropriate care should be provided without delay whilst further discussions continue if necessary.
5. PCTs may already have efficient fast-tracking protocols in place. If this is the case, and people who urgently need NHS Continuing Healthcare will not be disadvantaged by maintaining those protocols, practitioners may choose to continue to use their existing process.
6. To avoid misuse of this pathway, and to ensure that needs are appropriately met, the initial fast-tracking decision should be followed at the earliest possible opportunity by a full assessment of need where appropriate.
7. Please attach an information sheet with the necessary identifying details, any necessary evidence and a care plan describing how immediate needs will be met.

NHS Continuing Healthcare Fast Track Tool.

The individual [name and data sheet attached] fulfils the following criterion:
A rapidly deteriorating condition which may be in a terminal phase, with an increasing level of dependency

Brief outline of reasons for the fast-tracking decision:
This may include triggers such as diagnosis, prognosis in the minority of cases where this is available, and immediate and imminent needs.

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Name and signature of referring clinician

Date

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Name and signature confirming approval by PCT

Date

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