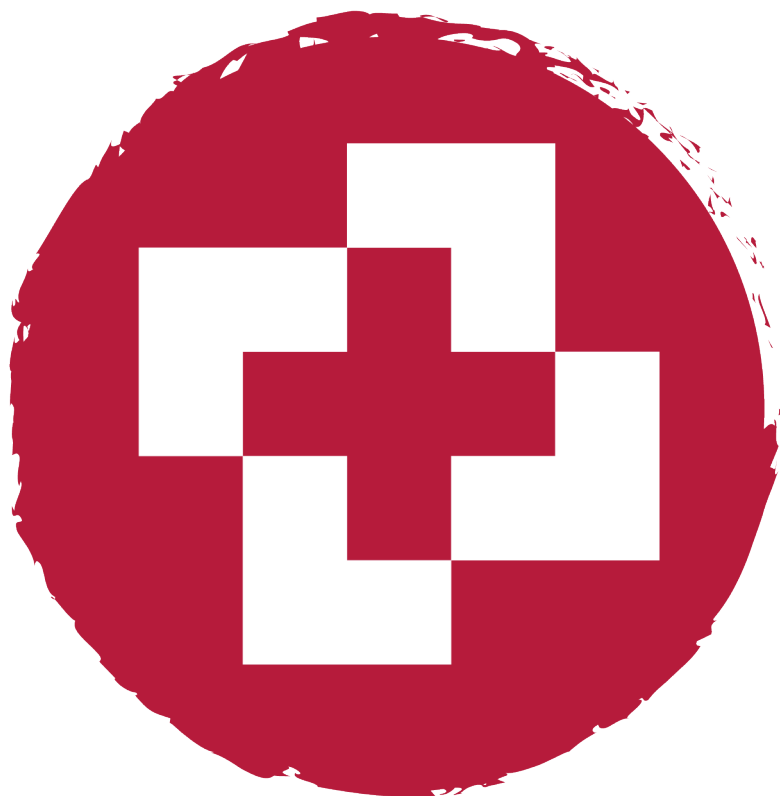


NHS CONTINUING HEALTHCARE

FACTSHEETS



WHAT IS A PRIMARY HEALTH NEED?

What Is a Primary Health Need?

“Whilst there is not a legal definition, in simple terms an individual has a primary health need if, having taken account of all of their needs (following completion of the DST), it can be said that the main aspects or majority part of the care they require is focused on addressing and/or preventing health needs.” (Source: National Framework)

For the purposes of statutory care funding, care needs are divided into two categories – Health Care Needs and Social Care Needs. In reality this is an artificial distinction because, for example, eating and drinking is classified as a Social Care Need but nutrition is classified as a Health Care Need. However it is important to understand that when your care needs are being assessed they will be categorised as either Health Care Needs or Social Care Needs.

While there is no official definition of the terms we can broadly say that:

Health Care Needs are related to the treatment, control or prevention of a disease, illness, injury or disability and;

Social Care Needs are related to activities of daily living, maintaining independence, social interaction, participating in society or managing complex relationships.

So exactly what constitutes a Primary Health Need (as opposed to Social Care Need) is not clearly defined in either the legislation or the National Framework and whether your needs are primarily health will depend on how you describe your care needs and the judgement of the people assessing you.

In order to establish whether you have a primary health need and are eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare you will need to go through an assessment.

Disclaimer

This factsheet has been prepared by SIA and contains general advice only, which we hope will be of use to you. Nothing in this factsheet should be construed as the giving of specific advice and it should not be relied on as a basis for any decision or action. SIA does not accept any liability arising from its use. We aim to ensure the information is as up-to-date and accurate as possible, but please be warned that certain areas are subject to change from time to time. Please note that the inclusion of named agencies, companies, products, services or publications in this factsheet does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement by SIA.

Revised April 2017

ABOUT SIA

The Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) is the leading national user-led charity for spinal cord injured (SCI) people. Being user led, we are well placed to understand the everyday needs of living with spinal cord injury and are here to meet those needs by providing key services to share information and experiences, and to campaign for change ensuring each person can lead a full and active life. We are here to support you from the moment your spinal cord injury happens, and for the rest of your life.

For more information contact us via the following:

Spinal Injuries Association
SIA House
2 Trueman Place
Oldbrook
Milton Keynes
MK6 2HH

T: 01908 604 191 (Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm)

T: 0800 980 0501 (Freephone Advice Line, Mon – Fri, 11am – 1pm/2pm – 4.30pm)

W: www.spinal.co.uk

E: sia@spinal.co.uk

Charity No: 1054097

Brought to you by:

