

LIFE MATTERS

sia spinal
injuries
association
for life after spinal cord injury

GETTING YOUR CARE NEEDS MET

FACTSHEET



spinal.co.uk



You may be able to meet some of your own care needs without assistance, and others with the help of equipment. If you need help from another person, this might be provided by:

- family or friends, usually unpaid
- privately purchased care, from an agency or an individual
- statutory care (provided by the NHS or your local authority)

SIA Advocacy team

Our advocacy team can support you to understand and make the most of the 2 kinds of statutory care: NHS continuing healthcare, and social care from the local authority

NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC)

This is free care for those seen as having a “primary health need” to be eligible for NHS CHC. This is a high bar to reach

There is no clear legal definition, making it difficult to judge whether you’ll receive support. In 1999 the Court of Appeal ruled that Pamela Coughlan, who has a C5/6 complete spinal cord injury, “needed services of a wholly different category” to those which local authorities can lawfully provide, and this remains the leading legal case on NHS CHC eligibility – but this still does not mean it is easy to tell who will be found eligible in practice

In England (but not in Wales or Northern Ireland) you have a right to personal health budgets and direct payments if suitable

Our care advice service can help our members prepare for an assessment or a review of current NHS continuing healthcare funding. And we can help with challenging any decisions that you’re not happy with. Email advocacy@spinal.co.uk or ring our support line on 0800 980 0501

You can also access our online [NHS CHC toolkit](#) for more information.



Social Care

This is means-tested care through an assessment by the council, which must look at managing basic daily routines, keeping safe at home, maintaining relationships and accessing the community. There is always a right to direct payments for social care if suitable

Regardless of your concerns, our social care advice service can help you understand social care and provide you with information and support for the needs assessment, the financial assessment, care planning or challenging a decision. Email advocacy@spinal.co.uk or ring our support line on 0800 980 0501

Joint Funded Care

This is for when you are when you are deemed to have some healthcare needs, but not to be eligible for 100% health funded NHS Continuing Healthcare. Sometimes The NHS will meet some needs and the local authority will meet other needs. Sometimes they agree a percentage split.

Access to Work

This is not statutory care, it is a project funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) which provides funding for support (equipment or assistance from another person) which you need at work, or travelling to and from work

Preparing for a care assessment

It is vital that you prepare well for care assessments and reviews, to give yourself the best possible chance of having all your care and support needs recognised and met. This can make a real difference to your quality of life

You may need to spell out all sorts of details about your daily care that you no longer think about. It may help to prepare written information or a detailed care diary. Our care advice service can advise or support you with this. Email advocacy@spinal.co.uk or ring our support line on 0800 980 0501

For more information, contact us at:

Spinal Injuries Association, SIA House,
2 Trueman Place, Milton Keynes, MK19 6HY

0800 980 0501 (freephone support line open Mon-Fri 10.00am-4.30pm)

sia@spinal.co.uk



About SIA

Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) is the leading national charity for anyone affected by spinal cord injury. We have specialist support available, for free, to support you through the mental and physical challenges you may face, both now and for the rest of your life.

Our support network is coordinated by a team of people, across the UK, who can put you in touch with our network of experts and trusted partners, covering all aspects of mind, body and life, to help you move forward with life. Our partners specialise in services such as legal, care, housing, finance, mental health and much more.

We are the voice of spinal cord injured people, through our expertise and we can connect you to the services and organisations you need through our network for all.

You can join the SIA community by signing up for free online at www.spinal.co.uk.

Disclaimer

This factsheet has been prepared by SIA and contains general advice that we hope will be useful. Nothing in this factsheet should be construed as giving 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.

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