



NHS continuing care & NHS funded nursing care

The National Framework for NHS continuing care and NHS funded nursing care

The new framework was introduced in October 2007 and aimed to provide the basis of a more consistent approach to assessing needs for people with extensive health problems who have a 'primary health need'.

The framework is currently being reviewed by the Department of Health and an updated version is expected to be published in June 2009. It will continue to encourage PCTs to work closely with their Local Authority colleagues and other stakeholders to implement the new arrangements.



“The new guidance focuses on the difficult area of eligibility for continuing care, its planning and dispute resolution. Our consultants can help you align this new government guidance with your current processes, as well as advising you on how to optimise the opportunities it creates.”

David Grant

Consultant

The Consultancy Company

Can we help you deliver the framework?

- Our consultants offer training to ensure that PCT and Local Authority staff understand the framework and are able to use it appropriately in their work. Our training material is updated regularly and will be revised to reflect the new national framework when it is published.
- We provide operational support to PCTs and Local Authorities to successfully implement the framework, for example by:
 - reviewing/updating operational guidance
 - working with multi-agency panel members to ensure continuing care cases are properly handled
 - arbitrating where there are local difficulties or disputes
 - helping to manage budgets
 - undertaking equality impact assessments to ensure that the framework is being implemented equitably.
- Our approach is based on the need for health and social care professionals to work effectively together to provide high quality treatment and care.
- Our support is always tailored to meet the needs of local organisations. Although the framework is national, the way in which it is implemented will vary around the country. All our consultants have senior management experience in health and social care and can adapt our approaches whilst ensuring that the objectives of the national framework are not compromised.
- We will provide you with support and written operational guidance to enable you to successfully manage the framework.

At The Consultancy Company we have a team of experienced health and social care consultants, many of whom have extensive knowledge in this field, in some cases dating back to the first Department of Health guidance in 1995 which led to the first set of published criteria locally in 1996. Since then we have worked with numerous PCTs, Local Authorities and some Strategic Health Authorities to implement and/or review their criteria and operational arrangements.

Training Support

We have designed and delivered the following three training packages for health and social care staff:

1. Briefings for senior managers: a half day seminar which ensures senior staff understand the new framework and its operational impact, both for their staff and for the future commissioning and funding of services.
2. Briefings for front line staff: a 90 minute session, designed for larger numbers of staff, which covers the basics of the new framework and introduces the national tools.
3. In-depth training for decision makers/those implementing the new framework: a one day workshop which covers the framework and tools in more depth and devotes considerable time to examining case study material.

Operational support

This includes:

- **Operational policies and guidance.** Preparing updated guidance and ensuring that it is incorporated into mainstream operational practice.
- **Financial impact analysis.** Helping you to understand the financial impact of the new criteria. This can include case reviews and audits, either by us or in collaboration with your staff.

- **Decision-making arrangements.** Many PCTs and Local Authorities operate multi-agency panel systems for making decisions about NHS continuing care, NHS funded nursing care and other complex or high cost care packages at home or in care homes. We can work with you to review these arrangements in light of the new national framework.
- **Independent advice.** As consultants not directly employed by PCTs or Local Authorities, we can use our independent position to provide advice and guidance and, if required, arbitrate on local difficulties or disputes.
- **Publicity and public relations.** We can ensure that you meet the requirements of the national framework to inform local stakeholders of the new framework. This could be via writing publicity material, updating web sites or directly circulating information. It also includes providing information for individuals/carers about the review outcomes /appeal process when their case has been found not to meet the criteria for NHS continuing care.

The Effect of Our Support

We can help you to achieve your goal of fully implementing the new national framework as quickly as possible and can customise our support across the above areas to suit your local needs. We will ensure that you have coherent working practices and that NHS continuing care and NHS funded nursing care is properly integrated into your day-to-day working practices.



“PCTs need to take advantage of any savings they can; but changes to continuing care case loads requires a careful and sensitive approach with partner organisations. We have both the experience and independence to offer a useful and effective service to PCTs looking to review their current cases against new government criteria.”

Tim Richardson
Managing Director
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