



INFORMATION SHEET 6

BEING IN HOSPITAL

There may come a time in your life when the person you care for has to go into hospital. Whether you are already a carer, or about to become a carer, it is helpful to know the support mechanisms that are in place to help you when that person comes out of hospital.

BENEFITS

If the hospital stay is for less than 28 days, most benefits will continue to be paid. If you are unsure if you will be affected or not, then contact the Pension Centre or Jobcentre Plus to get advice.

DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL

A person cannot be formally discharged from hospital until their medical condition is stable and they can be safely moved.

Discharge from hospital should be planned at the earliest opportunity, to ensure that individuals and their carers are able to contribute to the care planning process. Adult Social Care (formerly Social Services) and the Hospital should work together and the process should be managed by a named person who has responsibility for co-ordinating all stages of the assessment plan. This person is usually a hospital social worker.

ASSESSMENT

An assessment should be made looking at the care and support the person you look after will receive on discharge from the hospital. This assessment should be carried out jointly by the NHS and Adult Social Care. The process should start as soon as possible, ideally with the patient's active participation and where appropriate, the carers. Carers should be involved in any home visits by the Occupational Therapist and have the opportunity to discuss what equipment and adaptations to the house might help you and the patient.

From this assessment a Care Plan should be drawn up which should detail all the support that will be needed when the person returns home e.g. home care, day care etc.

If the patient will be receiving support from Adult Social Care following the

discharge from hospital, then a financial assessment will be carried out in order to work out how much they will be expected to contribute towards the cost of their care. You should also be given information about the charges for services. As a carer you will have the right to a Carers Assessment if this is what you wish. This looks at your needs as a carer and how you will cope in your caring role. It will also look at any support mechanisms that can be put in place to help you.

CARE PLAN

The Care Plan should include the details of any support services e.g. home care, meals on wheels, day care etc. It should also include contact details of those services. Support services should be arranged to start on the required date. Any necessary aids and adaptations should be supplied with full instructions and training where necessary.

The patient and carer should be given clear information about any medication, dietary needs or special treatment. The information should be given in an accessible format for people with sensory impairments or whose first language is not English.

DATE OF DISCHARGE

Both patients and carers should be given adequate warning of the date of discharge, and special care needs to be taken if the discharge is arranged for a Friday afternoon, weekend or before a Bank Holiday.

Appropriate transport should be arranged, including an escort if needed.

The home of a person living alone should be prepared for their return -is the house warm enough? Is there food in the house?

WHAT IF THESE THINGS DO NOT HAPPEN?

Every hospital has a Patient Advocacy & Liaison Service (PALS) who are there to help you sort out any concerns you may have. They have a confidential listening service for patients and carers, and can help with any difficulties that arise. They can also provide information regarding the complaints procedure should you want to make a formal complaint.

Stepping Hill Hospital PALS can be contacted on 0161 419 5678.