



# What happens when you are discharged from a Community Hospital?



**This leaflet is for people going to a Community Hospital.**

## What is a Community Hospital?

A Community Hospital is a smaller hospital in the community which provides healthcare and rehabilitation in a ward. A multi-disciplinary team made up of nurses, doctors and therapists will help you to recover from your episode of ill health and assess your longer-term support needs in readiness to go home or to a care home. Your stay at the Community Hospital is for a short-term period and is usually treated as step down from a stay in the acute hospital, or as a step up from an episode of illness at home.

## Do I have to pay for my care at the Community Hospital?

No, this is a service paid for by the NHS. This money comes from public funds and it is important we spend it wisely, to ensure we provide a fair and equal service to people, when they really need it.

## What happens next?

During your admission, the ward and discharge liaison team will come and speak with you to assess what support and help you already had before coming into hospital. They will ask you for information to understand if you can go straight home with either home care or need to move into a care home. They will need to ask you quite a few questions so you may want someone with you to help. With your consent, you may be referred to an Adult Social Care team who can help get in place the care and support you need to leave the Community Hospital.

## What support is available to me?

During your stay at the Community Hospital, you need to start thinking about how your care and support needs will be met when you leave. Starting to think about this early helps you keep your independence and helps meet the outcomes that are important to you. Thinking about this early can also help you leave hospital sooner. Depending on your care and support needs, there are many different services to ensure the outcomes that are important to you, are met when you leave hospital. Examples of support you might be able to access, subject to assessment, include:

- Information, advice and guidance
- Ongoing rehabilitation
- Informal support - Discussing if your family, friends or voluntary agencies can support you in any way
- Reablement - short term support to assist you in re-establishing your daily routine at home

- A period of assessment in a care home to help you recover more and assess what ongoing support you might need
- Long-term care in a Care Home
- Care at home - this is when a homecare agency visits you on an agreed schedule on a long-term basis

### **How much do I have to pay towards the cost of my care after leaving the Community Hospital?**

The B&NES Care Finance team will work with you to understand your financial position and work out how much your assessed weekly care charge towards the cost of your care and support will be. They will also be able to assist and support you to find out if you are eligible for any benefits. We can give you written information about paying for care and support and how your assessed weekly care charge is calculated and will be able to answer any queries you have. You may wish to seek independent financial advice to ensure you make the best decisions for you.

If you have over £23,250 in savings, you will need to pay the full cost of your care. This is the national threshold set by the UK Government and is reviewed each year. If you have over this amount of money in savings and assets, you will need to find your own care and set this up directly with a care agency. We can help you do this by giving you a list of care agencies who you can contact yourself.

### **Will there be any equipment provided to help me?**

Yes, the appropriate therapy team will make an assessment prior to going home or when you arrive at the community hospital, to see what equipment might help you now, or in the future.

### **Where Can I get more information?**

For information on Care Act Assessments and Support Planning, you can access this here: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/get-social-care-and-support-assessment>

For information about more community services, please visit: <https://livewell.bathnes.gov.uk/>

If you do not have access to the internet, please call our community wellbeing hub, who can provide you with the necessary information, advice and guidance. Their telephone number is **0300 247 0050**.