

What advice should people being discharged through this route be given about what happens in the longer term?

- They will be advised that they will have their longer-term needs for care and support assessed once they have recovered from their acute inpatient episode, and have benefitted from the reablement/rehabilitation support they are receiving on the discharge to assess pathway.

What choice will people and their families have about this?

- Because we are in a level 4 emergency period, normal arrangements around offering choice to patients have had to be suspended. There will not be any choices of support package during this period.

How does this sit with the NHS constitution and rights to choice and involvement

- In this unprecedented challenge, the NHS and public services must make contingencies to protect life and public safety. Therefore, for this period, if a clinical decision is made that a person no longer requires acute hospital care then they must be discharged on a suitable pathway and this must happen as quickly as possible. Local Authority and community health services will provide or source support for people and work with voluntary services and the wider public sector to ensure that peoples' health and wellbeing is supported.

How do we ensure that a person is in the best place for them at the end of their time on a discharge to assess pathway?

- There will be regular reviews of the person's progress whilst on the discharge to assess pathway. Any adjustments to the initial support will then be made (this could be a decrease or increase) The assessment of their longer-term needs at the appropriate time during this period will ensure that an accurate assessment can be made and the right support put in place.

How can we ensure that the ethical framework for social care is adhered to? Given that this is primarily Government guidance for social care, what is the role of clinicians?

- The ethical framework states that it 'also aims to support the work of professionals and others in the health and social care workforce who are developing policies and responding to the outbreak, in line with their own professional codes of conduct and regulations'.
- Health and social care professionals should work together to ensure that their processes and behaviours are in line with this guidance.

How does the suspension of choice policy fit with the Ethical Framework?

- The Discharge requirements and D2A model are intended to ensure that people are given the care they need in the most appropriate environment.
- The Framework sets out the principles that professionals should adhere to, but acknowledges that 'When implementing the ethical values and principles in urgent and uncertain circumstances, you may encounter tension between them which will require a judgement to be made on the extent that a particular value or principle can be applied in the context of each particular decision.'

- In order for acute hospitals to care for acutely ill people, it may be necessary to override the immediate wishes of individuals and their families in order to balance other principles in the framework, such as minimising harm and proportionality. This should be done with sensitivity and respect.
- As set out elsewhere, important protections, such as Deprivation and Liberty Safeguards, and the Mental Capacity Act 2005, continue to apply and must be adhered to.

What if there are no placements 'in area' which can meet needs, but the individual or their family are not in agreement with out of area placement which can meet needs due to distance?

- For this period, the normal choice protocols do not apply. It is important to discharge people who can be discharged. Most people should be able to go home, but if that is not possible, and they are assessed as needing to be admitted, either temporarily or long term, to a residential setting then it may be necessary for them to move to an out of area placement. The ethical framework should be followed.

Has the legislation for this actually been passed?

- The Coronavirus Bill has now passed all of its Parliamentary stages. See <https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2019-21/coronavirus.html>