



Department of

**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

PAYMENTS FOR NURSING CARE

*Information for people going into nursing
homes, their families and their carers*

What is nursing care?

Nursing care means care by a registered nurse in providing, planning and supervising your care in a care home providing nursing care. It does not include any time spent by any other staff, such as care assistants, who may also be involved in your care. However, it would include the time spent by a nurse in supervising the care you get from others and in monitoring any aspects of your care delegated to other staff.

It is different from personal care – care you need to help you in the activities of daily living; for example help with toileting and other personal needs like bathing, dressing and undressing, getting in and out of bed, moving around and help with feeding. It might also cover advice, encouragement and supervision

in these activities. Care assistants, rather than registered nurses, will usually see to your personal care needs.

What are payments for nursing care?

HPSS payments for nursing care cover the cost of providing nursing care in nursing homes. These payments are made by your local Health and Social Services Trust to the nursing home.

Who can receive payments for nursing care?

In order to qualify for HPSS payments you must satisfy 2 conditions:

1. You must be responsible for the full costs of your nursing home care.
2. You must be assessed as needing nursing care. This will be revealed in your overall

comprehensive assessment. Part of this assessment will have been a nursing needs assessment which will determine the extent to which a registered nurse should be involved in your care.

If, however, you would rather be responsible for your own care and you do not wish the HPSS to be involved in any aspects of your nursing care, you should inform your local Trust. You may be asked to sign a written statement to that effect.

You will not be eligible for HPSS payments if:

1. You are a resident of a residential home. Nursing here will normally be provided by the community nursing service and is free of charge.

2. You have been assessed as requiring some other form of care – whether residential care, care at home or at a day centre – but if you and your family decide that you would prefer to go into a nursing home, you will need to meet all of the nursing costs yourself. However if your needs change you can always ask for a nursing needs assessment to be carried out. The Trust would then pay for your nursing care if the assessment confirms that nursing home care is appropriate for your needs.

What do I need to do?

If you are entering a nursing home and wish to receive HPSS funded nursing care you will be asked to take part in a nursing needs assessment as part of the overall assessment, to determine your nursing needs and the most appropriate way to meet these.

You will be fully involved in this process and may request a personal copy of the assessment. This will explain what your nursing needs are and how they will be met. A future date will also be set to review your nursing care needs.

How will I receive the payments?

Nursing homes will receive the nursing care payments directly. Payments will be purely a matter for the Trust and the nursing home. Neither you nor your family will need to get involved in any financial transactions relating to your nursing care.

What if...?

1. My nursing needs change

Anyone entering a nursing home should have their needs reassessed, usually within 3 months and every 12 months thereafter.

There may also be circumstances where your needs will have to be reviewed before then, for instance following medical treatment. Similarly, if you or your family feel that your nursing needs are not being adequately met, you can ask for your nursing needs to be re-examined by contacting your local Trust. However, you should always continue to receive the appropriate nursing care that you need at the time you need it.

2. I receive short term nursing care

There may be occasions where you need to go into a care home providing nursing care for only a short period of time, for example:

- for respite care;

- in an emergency or a crisis, for instance if your carer or relative is suddenly taken ill themselves and they are not able to look after you;
- for a trial period – to explore whether you would prefer to move into a care home on a permanent basis.

If your stay is temporary, that is eight weeks or less, you will not normally need a full assessment but HPSS funded nursing care should apply in most cases. Consideration will be given to earlier assessments/care plans if they are available.

3. I want to appeal

Any concerns you or your family may have about the assessment of your need for HPSS funded nursing care should, in the first instance, be referred to the nurse from

your local Trust who assessed your need for nursing care. If necessary the Trust can review the decision made on the assessment of your nursing needs.

If you are considering an appeal you may wish to consider the use of an **advocacy service**. An advocate is an independent person who will act on your behalf and represent your interests to another party, be it a nursing home, the local Trust or Board. An advocate has only your interests at heart and is skilled at helping you present your views that you may find difficult to put across yourself. Your area Health and Social Services Council should be able to put you in touch with independent advocacy services. You can obtain further information about these services through local voluntary

organisations and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

4. I receive social security benefits

These arrangements will not affect anyone's entitlement to social security benefits received while in a nursing home.

Who should I contact?

If you have any queries concerning HPSS funded nursing care, you should contact your local Trust. They can tell you about the assessment of your nursing care needs, and will ensure that an assessment of your needs is carried out.

Further advice and information may be obtained from:

- Area Health and Social Services Board;

- Local Health and Social Services Trust;
- Area Health and Social Services Council;
- Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority

The contact details for the above health and personal social services organisations can be found in your local telephone directories.

The following voluntary organisations may also be useful sources of help and information:

Age Concern NI
3 Lower Crescent
Belfast
BT7 1NR

Telephone: 028 9024 5279
www.ageconcernni.org

Action on Elder Abuse
Astral House
1268 London Road
London
SW16 4ER

Telephone: 0808 8088141
www.elderabuse.org.uk
enquiries@elderabuse.org.uk

Alzheimer's Society
86 Eglantine Avenue
Belfast
BT9 6EU

Telephone: 028 9066 4100
www.alzheimers.org.uk/NIreland
roni@alzheimers.org.uk

Belfast Carers Centre
Suites 2-5
Merrion Business Centre
58 Howard Street
Belfast
BT1 6PJ

Telephone: 028 9043 7000
www.carerscentre.org
info@carerscentre.org

Carers Northern Ireland
58 Howard Street
Belfast
BT7 1NT

Telephone: 028 9043 9843
www.carersni.org

Citizen's Advice Bureau
11 Upper Crescent
Belfast
BT7 1NT

Telephone: 028 9023 1120
www.citizensadvice.co.uk
info@citizensadvice.co.uk

Help the Aged
Lesley House
Shaftesbury Square
Belfast
BT2 7DB

Telephone: 028 9023 0666
www.helptheaged.org.uk

Law Centre NI
124 Donegall Street
Belfast
BT1 2GY

Telephone: 028 9024 4401
www.lawcentreni.org
admin.belfast@lawcentreni.org
admin.derry@lawcentreni.org

Relatives Association
10 Durlston House
Dunclug Gardens
Ballymena
BT43 6SF

Telephone: 028 2563 9700
relatives@btopenworld.com

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This document is also available on the Department's
website:

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

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