

12 May 2025

Dear

ATISN 24672 – End of Life Care

Thank you for your request to Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 26 April 2025 relating to Continuing NHS Healthcare, more specifically each health boards Fast Track process for end-of-life care.

You requested the following:

1. *What recommendations were set out by Welsh Government policy makers when advising of the development of local assessment documents for each health board, in order for individuals or their health representatives to access NHS commissioned care.*
2. *The guidance provided to health boards that assisted them in the writing of their own assessments for Fast Track process, specifically if the primary health need test was stipulated and if so if what format was this to be achieved for example use of the decision support tool.*

Our Response

1. The process for Health Board's to follow in respect of the Continuing Healthcare fast track is set out in the *Continuing NHS Healthcare – The National Framework for Implementation in Wales*. The Framework stipulates that Health Board's must have a robust fast track process in place to complete the assessment process within two days of receipt, and that the process should ensure the individual and/or their representative is fully involved. The fast-track assessment should be completed by an appropriate clinician and reasons given as to why an individual meets the conditions requiring a fast-track decision to be made. Where a recommendation is made for an urgent package of care by an appropriate clinician through the fast-track process, this should be accepted and actioned immediately by the local health board.

CHC fast-track assessments, care planning and commissioning for those with end-of-life needs should be carried out in an integrated manner, in line with the individual's overall end of life care pathway, with full account being taken of the individual's preferences. An Advanced Care Plan should be developed in accordance with Welsh Government policy (Palliative and End of Life Care Delivery Plan 2017).

Local operation and assessment of the CHC fast-track process should meet the Framework requirements above.

2. The guidance requested has been published on the Welsh Government website and you could locate it by using the following link: [Continuing NHS Health Care](#)

Next Steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,