

*From the Office of Sir David Nicholson KCB CBE
Chief Executive of the NHS in England*



Strategic Health Authorities in England (Chief Executives)
Primary Care Trusts in England (Chief Executives)
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Dear colleagues

**Announcement in relation to the introduction of deadlines for Assessments of
Eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare for cases during the period 1st April 2004 –
31st March 2012**

I am writing to provide notification of our intention to introduce a close down for any new cases to the system which require assessment of eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare (NHS CHC) funding. This close down will apply to episodes of care which occurred during the period 1st April 2004 to 31st March 2012. The minimum time period will be 12 months from the date an episode of care occurred to the deadline for requesting an assessment of eligibility.

PCTs currently have responsibility for assessment and decision-making for NHS CHC. From 1st April 2013, subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, this statutory responsibility will transfer to clinical commissioning groups (CCGs). It is therefore considered timely to introduce these changes in order that at the point of handover to CCGs, we have set clear deadlines for historical cases requiring assessment of eligibility.

We are asking that individuals or their representatives notify the relevant PCT in respect of previously un-assessed periods of time where there is evidence that the individual should have been assessed for eligibility for NHS CHC funding with respect to that care. The time periods and deadlines for notification are set out below:

Time Period	Deadline
1 st April 2004 – 30 th September 2007	30 th September 2012
1 st October 2007 – 31 st March 2011	30 th September 2012
1 st April 2011 – 31 st March 2012	31 st March 2013

Annex 1 sets out these periods and related deadlines with short explanatory notes.

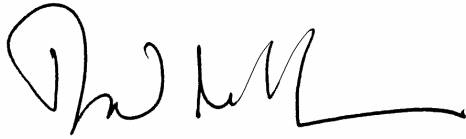
It is very important that this be communicated effectively and as quickly as possible to your local population through whatever means necessary. This could include local press, noticeboards in hospitals and community centres and through local advocacy groups and nursing homes.

Nationally, SHA NHS Continuing Healthcare Leads are in the process of preparing advice on

the communications process and will also co-ordinate the preparation and distribution of appropriate advertising materials for use by PCTs.

We recognise that there may be exceptional circumstances that mean that some cases may still need to be accepted after the dates outlined above, but in the absence of such circumstances, cases notified to PCTs after the dates outlined should be returned to the claimant with an explanation of why the case is not eligible for assessment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Nicholson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sir David Nicholson KCB CBE
NHS Chief Executive

ANNEX 1

CLOSING THE ASSESMENT OF ELIGIBILITY PROCESS FOR NHS CONTINUING HEALTHCARE CASES DURING THE PERIOD 2004-12

Summary of the Deadlines for individuals or their representatives to request an assessment of eligibility for NHS CHC (where the case has previously been un-assessed), for the period of time between 1st April 2004 to 31st March 2012:

Time Period	Cut-Off Date	Rationale
1 st April 2004 – 30 th September 2007	30 th September 2012	This time period will include a cohort of individuals whose episode of care began prior to the introduction of the National Framework for NHS CHC on 1 st October 2007 and therefore assessment - or for cases involving periods before and after the introduction of the National Framework, part of the assessment) - will be subject to the local processes and eligibility criteria in place at that time (and must be <i>Coughlan</i> and <i>Grogan</i> compliant). SHAs are working with PCTs on these processes.
1 st October 2007 – 31 st March 2011	30 th September 2012	This time period will include a cohort of individuals whose episode of care began after the introduction of the National Framework for NHS CHC and therefore assessment would be subject to the guidance set out in the Framework.