

## What will happen if my hospital treatment is completed and the particular support best suited to meet my needs is not available?

In this event you will be asked to accept an alternative option which is available and which is the best alternative to the service you need and which will still meet your needs. A community social worker or community nurse will be allocated to you to enable you to transfer to the most suitable service when it becomes available.

## If I have been given pieces of equipment to assist with my care, will these be provided to me when I am discharged from hospital?

If you need any equipment to allow you to return home safely, this will be arranged by the appropriate member of the hospital team. Further assessment for specialist equipment may be carried out once you have been discharged.

## How will I get home?

You will be expected to make your own transport arrangements with your family/ carer.

If there is a particular medical problem and your consultant feels that you need an ambulance, this will be arranged for you.

## If I have been discharged but my family won't be able to collect me until later on, what should I do?

You should notify the nurse finalising your discharge who will consider if alternative transport can be arranged.



Northern Health  
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

NT/EPCOPS/03/09/5817 50k CCD

## Getting ready to leave hospital

Information about your discharge arrangements

Patient name

Ward

Consultant

Nurse

Estimated discharge date

## Who is responsible for my care?

You have been admitted under the care of a consultant and their team. The hospital team includes nurses, physiotherapists, pharmacists, occupational therapists, dietitians, speech and language therapists, podiatrists and social workers.

Appropriate members of the team will be identified who can contribute to your care. If you need to be transferred to the care of a different consultant and their team, this will be discussed with you.

## Will I stay in the same bed/ward for all of my hospital stay?

Sometimes this may be the case, however, for some people, transfer to a more appropriate setting is necessary to meet their medical needs at that time. This may be a different bed in the same hospital, or a bed in a different hospital, or, if appropriate, a bed in a community facility. You will be informed by the doctor or nurse of any such transfers and the reason for this.

## When can I go home?

Early in your hospital stay your consultant will inform you of an estimated date of discharge and will keep you updated if this date changes. The date is to help you and your family plan ahead. Please ask if you are unsure about your estimated date of discharge.

You should also inform your doctor or nurse of any existing supports you have such as family support or any community services you already receive, so these can be taken into account when planning your discharge.

You will normally be discharged before 1.00pm on the day you are due to leave hospital so that any support services that need to commence on the day of your discharge, can commence. Please ensure that you have made plans to be collected before 1.00pm.

## What will happen if my hospital treatment is completed and I have concerns that I will need additional support to return home?

Your future care needs and the most appropriate support arrangements will be identified as early as possible in consultation with you and your family.

The majority of hospital patients continue to make progress after discharge so for this reason any home care services arranged by the Trust will be reviewed three weeks after you go home. This is to ensure that you continue to have the right amount of support.

## What will happen if my hospital treatment is completed and I still have concerns that it is too early to return home even with additional supports at home being made available to me?

If it is agreed that you cannot return home immediately, we will discuss other options with you such as whether a transfer to one of the Trust's rehabilitation beds is most appropriate to your needs or whether transfer to a residential or nursing home bed is the preferred option to allow you and your family time to plan future care. The hospital team will be able to advise as to which option is best for you.