



COVID-19 Pandemic

Management of Homeless Adults on discharge from Hospital – updated guidance December 2020

Discharge pathways

Trusts are reminded of the London Vision commitment that no one is discharged from hospital to the street.

In the first instance, discharge for patients experiencing or at risk of homelessness should follow the usual approach, using the Discharge to Assess pathways making use of local step-down provision or other local authority provision.

The statutory 'duty to refer' remains a legal requirement during this time, and therefore anyone experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness must be referred to the local authority housing department.

A guidance note on the Duty to Refer can be found at [Advice-on-duty-to-refer-for-hospitals-and-ED.pdf \(healthylondon.org\)](https://www.healthylondon.org/Advice-on-duty-to-refer-for-hospitals-and-ED.pdf)

If individuals are new to rough sleeping, they should be referred to the local authority housing department. Local Authorities and the Greater London Authority are being funded by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government to offer some limited hotel accommodation for people who are already rough sleepers. **The Duty to Refer process should be completed before considering a referral to hotel accommodation.**

Capacity in these hotels is very restricted, and therefore each Local Authority has an allocated number of bed spaces. The relevant local authority (where the person was previously rough sleeping or has a local connection) will need to agree the placement as part of their allocated beds.

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If the Local Authority is unable to accommodate an individual, a referral can be made to the hotel accommodation being run on behalf of the GLA, if the person meets the following criteria:

- a) The person has previously been rough sleeping and would otherwise be returning to rough sleeping, and
- b) All other reasonable options have been exhausted (i.e. Duty to Refer), and
- c) The person is in the Clinically Vulnerable or Clinically Extremely Vulnerable groups, or has another vulnerability classed as part of the Protect Cohort, and
- d) The person is able to safely manage in a hotel setting.

Referrals are via the attached referral form and should be sent to CHORUS@MUNGOS.ORG. CHORUS will need to confirm with the relevant local authority that the person can be placed as part of their allocated beds within the GLA hotels; if the local authority refuses then the person will not be accommodated.

The Local Authority and GLA hotels are not a suitable environment for managing complex health needs. Individuals referred into these hotels via street outreach teams should not have significant social care needs as these sites cannot provide suitable support. Discharge to assess pathways should be followed for individuals who have significant health and/or social care needs.

Work is underway to re-open hotel accommodation for self-isolation for COVID symptomatic people who sleep rough or are unable to self-isolate in their hostel accommodation. This note will be updated once that provision is open to referrals.

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