

Leaving Hospital Factsheet

What to do when you leave Hospital?

What should you do about your Benefits?

Even if your Benefits have not changed or been stopped you or someone on your behalf should still contact the following Benefit Offices with a view to making sure that it is on record that you have been discharged.

Contact the Disability Benefits Centre so that the following Benefits can continue to be paid:

- Disability Living Allowance (Care Component)
- Attendance Allowance
- Disability living Allowance (Mobility Component)

Contact the Local Jobcentre Plus Office so that the following Benefits can continue to be paid:

- Incapacity Benefit
- Income Support
- Pension Credit

Contact your local Town Hall Housing and Council Tax Office if you are receiving:

- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Benefit

And advise them of the date of your departure. If you have already left hospital you should advise the relevant offices immediately of the date you left. A nurse, social worker, doctor, friend or relative can do this for you.

Do you have temporary absences from home?

If you leave hospital for a trial run or you have regular visits home you should do the following:

- Contact your Local Benefit/Social Security Office or Jobcentre Plus Office
- Ask them to pay the full amount of any Benefit for the days that you are at home.
- Get your hospital to write a note, which states exactly how many days you stay at home.

Discharged from hospital and managing your care needs at home

Some people feel that they are returned home before they are ready and without proper support. Before you are discharged you need to do the following:

- Ask a nurse to make sure that you are referred to a care manager for an assessment of what your care needs will be in the home.
- Ask the care manager to fully explain the arrangements for care and support set out in your Care Plan.
- If it is suggested that you move to a care home, make sure that you know:
 - For how long, how the full cost will be met, that all of your benefits will be re-assessed including Disability Living allowance and Attendance Allowance.

For help to check exactly which benefits you are able to claim, help to fill in the necessary forms or to discuss any problems you have with your benefits call:

Macmillan Benefits Helpline on freephone 0808 801 0304

Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 10am – 5pm and Weds 12 noon – 5pm

Alternatively, you can contact an Asbestos Support Group, your local Citizens' Advice Bureau or a local Specialist nurse for advice and assistance.