



Information about Section 117 aftercare



Easy Read
for patients, relatives and carers

What is section 117 aftercare?



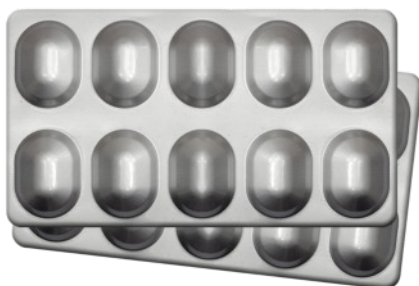
Section 117 aftercare is about your mental health support after leaving hospital.

Section 117 is part of the Mental Health Act 1983. This is a law that services have to work to.



Section 117:

- makes sure that you get the care you need for your mental health
- helps lower the chances of you getting unwell again
- care will be paid for by the NHS and local social care
- means you might get help with:
 - ✓ specialist housing for your mental health
 - ✓ meeting people
 - ✓ work or education
 - ✓ free prescriptions for mental health medicine



Who can get section 117 aftercare?



There are different sections of the Mental Health Act 1983.

Getting free aftercare depends on which section you were in hospital for.



Sections of the Mental Health Act 1983 where you can get free aftercare

3

37

45A

47

48

17A



Sections of the Mental Health Act 1983 where you cannot get free aftercare

2

4

5

38



Ask your support if you do not know which section you were in hospital for.

What if I stay in hospital?



You might want to stay in hospital after you have been told you can go home.

This is called being an “informal” patient.



You will still get free aftercare when you leave.

What if I go back into hospital?



Your section 117 aftercare will not stop if you go back into hospital.

How does aftercare work?



Planning for your aftercare should start when you go into hospital.

There will be a section 117 planning meeting. This can include you, your family, friends or carers or advocate.



An Independent Mental Health Advocate can go to these meetings too.

They make sure everyone knows what you think is important for you to get better.



A care plan will be written.

This will include:

- the support you will get
- who is in charge of making sure you get the right support



You and the people at the meeting will be able to get a copy of the care plan.



By law the NHS and social care will pay for your aftercare services.

They will make sure the care is ready for when you leave hospital.

When will my section 117 aftercare end?



Your aftercare should only stop when your needs have been met.



NHS and social care services have to give you aftercare as long as you need it.

NHS and social care services both have to decide if you still need aftercare services.



Aftercare should be looked at (reviewed) regularly.

You will be invited to review meetings. You can bring a carer or family member to these meetings.



Aftercare is about your mental health. It will stop if your needs are because of your physical health.

Benefits



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Your benefits may be change if you get section 117 aftercare.

You will need to contact the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) to tell them when your aftercare started.

It is important to tell each department you get benefits from about our aftercare.



If your aftercare includes housing, your housing and council tax benefits might be affected.

You will need to contact your local council to let them know about your aftercare.

What if I have a problem?



If you have a problem talk to your Community Lead Professional. This could be your Social Worker or Community Nurse.

Advocacy



If you need support to speak up contact:

South West Advocacy Network (SWAN)

Call: 03333 447928

Email: dorset@swanadvocacy.org.uk

Complaints



If you are not happy with your care talk to your someone who supports you. If they cannot help you can contact any of these organisations:



Dorset HealthCare University
NHS Foundation Trust



Dorset HealthCare

Patient Advice and Liaison Service
Dorset Healthcare
Sentinel House
4-6 Nuffield Industrial Estate
Poole
Dorset
BH17 0RB

Call: 0800 587 4997

Email: dhc.pals@nhs.net





Dorset



NHS Dorset

NHS Dorset Customer Care Office
Vespasian House
Barrack Road
Dorchester
DT1 1TG



Call: 01305 368926

Email:

customer.careteam@nhsdorset.nhs.uk



Dorset Council

Complaints Team
Freepost
Business Reply Licence Number
RRYH-AGJZ-TRGG
Colliton Park
Dorchester
DT1 1XJ



Call: 01305 221000



BCP Council

Complaints Manager
Adult Social Care Commissioning
BCP Council
Civic Centre
Poole
BH15 2RU



Call: 01202 123970

Email:

comments.adultsocialcare@bcpcouncil.gov.uk



If you are not happy with the answer to your complaint contact the Ombudsman. They make final decisions on complaints.

Call: 0345 105 4033

This leaflet

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The information in this leaflet is available in additional languages and alternative formats.

Call 01202 277000



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