

Adult Continuing Healthcare Personal Health Budget

Policy Decisions

Updated 2014-05-20

Please note, these are general policy decisions and an individual's care plan will be considered in relation to these policy decisions, that individual's assessed health and wellbeing needs, their agreed health and wellbeing outcomes and their individual circumstances.

Date discussed		Policy Question
2/4/14	Discussion Decision	<p>Can an individual with a Section 117 have a PHB?</p> <p>These cases can be managed through Continuing Healthcare (CHC), SCC and Mental Health budget and future policy decisions will dictate where 'Mental Health' sits. Recognised that there are instances where an individual is eligible for CHC but is also 117.</p> <p>This panel should only discuss CHC not 117, which budget it comes from is irrelevant. We wouldn't preclude these cases but they must be considered carefully by Head of Department. The Head of Department will make these decisions on an individual basis</p>
2/4/14	Discussion Decision	<p>What happens to PA budget payments when someone goes into hospital?</p> <p>If you are admitted to hospital we will review on discharge or in 28 days. We will not withhold your PHB while you are in hospital. The only reason we would take funds from a PHB holder is if it was reviewed and not needed or reviewed and their needs have changed.</p>
2/4/14	Discussion Decision	<p>If someone would normally be provided with care via a care home with nursing but wants to have care at home via PHB what is our policy?</p> <p>The care home cost should be assessed in relation to the indicative budget and the question would be whether the same care can be provided for the same budget. These decisions will be made according to individual needs assessed.</p>
2/4/14	Discussion Decision	<p>What should PHB PA rate guidance be?</p> <p>It is up to the PHB holder how much they pay their PAs as long as they can fund required support to ensure their wellbeing within their indicative budget. General guidance for planning purposes would be a suggested rate of £10.50/hour for the PA.</p>
2/4/14	Discussion Decision	<p>Can we fund backdated pay increases or bonus payments if someone has a surplus?</p> <p>Gifts can be made to PAs but cannot be funded from personal health budget funds. Personal health budgets cannot be used to fund gifts or bonus payments.</p>
2/4/14	Discussion Decision	<p>What is our policy for contingency for redundancy payments , maternity etc.</p> <p>We will follow SILC guidance on normal employment law in this respect.</p>

16/4/14	Discussion	If someone already has a PA and Interim Health Funding is being considered can they have a temporary PHB to allow them to keep their Personal Assistant in place?
	Decision	The priority is the patient and it is not our intention to delay a discharge or disrupt a care plan. Although it has to be understood why interim health funding is being considered. As the person already has a PA the Local Authority should continue to fund until an assessment is made and CHC agreed as neither the NHS nor the LA should unilaterally withdraw from an existing funding arrangement without a joint reassessment of the individual (page 41 para 143 - National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care. www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-framework-for-nhs-continuing-healthcare-and-nhs-funded-nursing-care
30/4/14	Discussion	Could a PHB be used to fund food and drink for a PA?
	Decision	A PA is responsible for funding their own food and drink during work hours. An employer is not responsible for funding an employee's meals.
30/4/14	Discussion	Could a PHB be used to fund advertising costs to recruit PAs?
	Decision	If, as part of the care planning process, it's deemed to be a reasonable cost and other avenues have been considered then we would provide reasonable agreed funding for advertising for PAs
30/4/14	Discussion	Could a PHB be used to fund PA training costs, PA training travel costs and costs for the PA's time spent training and additional care whilst the PA attends training?
	Decision	Yes, the PHB should contain funding to ensure that the PA is able to attend all mandatory training as agreed in the individual's care support plan. The following would be funded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cost of mandatory agreed PA training – Cost of PA's time to attend training at usual pay rate – Reasonable travel costs associated with the training – Additional care costs to provide backfill whilst the PA is at training (if training is unable to be completed outside of normal shift hours)
30/4/14	Discussion	Can a PHB be used to fund 'non-traditional' respite options, for example, a short break in a caravan to include accommodation for their existing PA(s)?
	Decision	The amount of money assessed as meeting individual short break (<i>respite</i>) needs can be used flexibly to meet assessed health and wellbeing outcomes. Respite options should be discussed as part of the care planning process. If a PHB holder decides to make a change to respite arrangements outside of the care planning process, then contact should be made with the care co-ordinator for confirmation.
30/4/14	Discussion	Could a PHB be used to fund the transport of personalised specialist equipment?
	Decision	Consideration would be given to the funding of the transport of personalised specialist equipment to and from a specific destination if it's meeting an agreed outcome in the care plan. It is expected that the individual would explore the most cost effective options and discuss with their care coordinator.

30/4/14	Discussion	Will CHC patients currently receiving Independent Living Fund (ILF) payments continue to be provided this allowance?
	Decision	CHC patients will not continue to receive ILF, as ILF ceases as a funding stream in April 2015. A PHB is based on assessed health needs and as per the National Framework , is required to provide adequate funding to meet all assessed health needs. An individual's receipt of the Independent Living Fund will not be part of PHB decisions.
30/4/14	Discussion	Can a PHB holder unilaterally increase a PA's rate of pay using their personal health budget?
	Decision	Any change in the amount paid to PAs would need to be discussed with the NHS Funded Healthcare Team Care Coordinator. There is a risk that increasing pay without an associated increase in the PHB funding may make it difficult to fund the agreed adequate amount of care within the currently agreed budget going forward.
30/4/14	Discussion	Can a PHB be used to fund activities, for example swimming, which will help an individual's wellbeing?
	Decision	A PHB can be used to fund the activity itself, assistance to carry out the activity and reasonable costs of transport to an activity if the activity meets the health and wellbeing outcomes agreed in the care support plan.
30/4/14	Discussion	Can a PHB be spent on gardening?
	Decision	A PHB cannot be used to fund gardening.
30/4/14	Discussion	Can a PHB be spent on cleaning?
	Decision	A PHB can be used to fund domestic tasks relating to a patient's direct environment and patient-related tasks could be funded from a personal health budget where it is assessed as a need relating to patient environment and agreed as part of the care plan.
14/05/14	Discussion	Budget surplus: What can a budget holder's surplus be used to fund and under what circumstances should it be returned to the NHS?
	Decision	Your budget should meet your health needs but should there be circumstances where a surplus arises this will be discussed on an individual basis.
14/05/2014	Discussion	Should people be able to use a personal health budget to fund universal services, e.g. Occupational Therapy, physio, specialist equipment (which would normally be funded from other sources) , if it falls within their budget.
	Decision	Every effort must be made to use the universal service – in exceptional circumstances it will be considered and with very strong evidence to support further consideration. It was noted that these decisions should not be done in isolation but should promote a dialogue between the CCG and the service provider.