



COVID-19 Pandemic

Management of Homeless Adults on discharge from Hospital – updated guidance April 2021

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.**

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.

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