



Factsheet 58

Paying for short-term and temporary care in a care home

October 2023

About this factsheet

This factsheet explains the financial assessment rules that cover short-term and temporary care homes placements. These placements can be for various reasons, such as respite care or trial periods. A distinction is made between temporary care (up to eight weeks) and short-term care (up to eight weeks).

Factsheet 41, *How to get care and support*, has information on how you can get social care support and assistance from the local authority.

The information in this factsheet is correct for the period October 2023 to September 2024.

The information in this factsheet is applicable to England. If you are in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, please contact Age Cymru, Age Scotland or Age NI. Contact details are at the back of this factsheet.

Contents

| | | |
|----------|--|----------|
| 1 | Recent developments | 3 |
| 2 | Terms and sources used in this text | 3 |
| 3 | Short-term, temporary or permanent status | 3 |
| 4 | Short-term residents | 4 |
| 5 | Temporary residents | 5 |
| 5.1 | Treatment of property | 5 |

Definitions of short-term, temporary and permanent residential care

Under the charging regulations:

'short-term resident' means being provided with accommodation in a care home for a period not exceeding eight weeks. An example of short-term care is where you are placed in a care home to receive respite care, possibly on a regular basis.

'temporary resident' means your stay is not intended to be permanent and it is unlikely to exceed 52 weeks. It can exceed this period in exceptional circumstances, L I L W L V X @ S a n h y Q \ H W R H H G weeks. There must be a plan to return home at some point.

means that you are not a short-term or temporary resident. See factsheet 10,

Local authority policy

As this is a discretionary power, a local authority does not have to treat you as if you receive care and support at home if you enter a care home as a short-term resident. If they decide to treat you differently following the financial assessment, you can request a review of their decision and ask them to treat you as if you were living at home.

These types of paid-for services are different from free short-term rehabilitation. See section 8 for more information on this service.

Direct payments

Direct payments can be used to purchase a short stay in a care home, for a period up to four consecutive weeks in any 12-month period. This can be to provide a respite break for a carer, for example.

If the period between two stays in a care home is less than four weeks, they are treated as consecutive and added together to make a cumulative total. If two stays in a care home are at least four weeks apart, they are not added together.

If you have four consecutive weeks in a care home, individually or cumulatively, you cannot use direct payments to pay for care home services until 12 months have passed from the start of the four-week period. If each stay is less than four weeks and there is an interim period of at least four weeks between two

7 If temporary becomes permanent

Temporary residential care can become permanent. If this happens, the local authority should only financially assess you under permanent residential care rules from the date you agreed

Our publications are available in large print and audio formats

Next update October 2024

The evidence sources used to create this factsheet are available on request. Contact resources@ageuk.org.uk

This factsheet has been prepared by Age UK and contains general advice only, which we hope will be of use to you. Nothing in this factsheet should be construed as the giving of specific advice and it should not be relied on as a basis for any decision or action. Neither Age UK nor any of its subsidiary companies or charities accepts any liability arising from its use. We aim to ensure that the information is as up to date and accurate as possible, but please be warned that certain areas are subject to change from time to time. Please note that the inclusion of named agencies, websites, companies, products, services or publications in this factsheet does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement by Age UK or any of its subsidiary companies or charities.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this factsheet is correct. However, things do change, so it is always a good idea to seek expert advice on your personal situation.

Age UK is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales (registered charity number 1128267 and registered company number 6825798). The registered address is 7th Floor, One America Square, 17 Crosswall, London, EC3N 2LB. Age UK and its subsidiary companies and charities form the Age UK Group, dedicated to improving later life.