



Department of Health & Social Care

Department of Health and Social
Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

Amanda Pritchard
Chief Executive
NHS England

16th August 2024

Dear Amanda,

1. **NHS All Age Continuing Care Directions 2024**

- 1.1 I am writing on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (**the Secretary of State**) to give Directions to **NHS England**.
- 1.2 These Directions are given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1), and 304(9) to (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012¹ (**the 2012 Act**) and sections 13ZC and 272(7) and (8) of the National Health Service Act 2006² (**the 2006 Act**).
- 1.3 These Directions are to be known as the **NHS All Age Continuing Care Directions 2024** and come into force on the date after the day on which they are signed.

2. **Requirement for these Directions**

- 2.1 In accordance with section 254(2)(b) of the 2012 Act, the Secretary of State considers that it is in the interests of the health service in England or of the recipients or providers of adult social care in England for these Directions to be given.

¹ 2012 c.7 (the 2012 Act). Relevant amendments were made by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Transfer of Functions, Abolition and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/98).

² 2006 c.41. Section 13ZC was inserted by section 45 of the Health and Care Act 2022 (c.31).

2.2 In accordance with section 254(5) of the 2012 Act, the Secretary of State has consulted NHS England before giving these Directions.

2.3 In accordance with section 13ZC(5) of the 2006 Act, the Secretary of State considers these Directions to be in the public interest.

3. Priorities, Policies and Non-Statutory Guidance

In exercising functions under these Directions, NHS England must have regard to such priorities, policies and non-statutory guidance³ of the Secretary of State as the Secretary of State may notify in writing from time to time to NHS England.

4. Purpose

The purpose of these Directions (**the Purpose**) is to:

4.1 Establish an All Age Continuing Care (**AACC**) information system to collect and analyse data regarding the end-to-end commissioning of AACC services. This includes the initial checklist through to assessment, and the commissioning and monitoring of individual care packages, regular and ad-hoc care packages and eligibility reviews, and eligibility disputes (referred to as the **AACC data set**).

4.2 Develop the AACC data set as a patient-level data set to cover all aspects of AACC, where AACC refers to the following commissioned services, as described in the [National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care](#)⁴ and The National Framework for [Children and Young People's Continuing Care](#)⁵:

4.2.1 NHS Continuing Healthcare;

4.2.2 NHS-funded Nursing Care;

4.2.3 Jointly funded health and social care packages;

4.2.4 Children and Young People's Continuing Care.

4.3 Replace the NHS Continuing Health Care Data Set ("**CHC Data Set**") collected under the [NHS Continuing Healthcare Directions 2022](#)⁶ which was based upon the [National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care](#) and which applied to persons aged 18 or over only with the AACC data set which is to be expanded to include the data of

³In addition, NHS England has a duty to have regard to [statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 274A of the 2012 Act: NHS England's protection of patient data, 23 May 2023](#), as the same may be updated from time to time.

⁴<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-framework-for-nhs-continuing-healthcare-and-nhs-funded-nursing-care>

⁵<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-and-young-peoples-continuing-care-national-framework>

⁶ [NHS Continuing Healthcare Directions 2022](#). The Directions were given by NHS England to the Health and Social Care Information Centre (NHS Digital) on 9 March 2022. NHS Digital was abolished, and its functions transferred to NHS England, with effect from 1 February 2023, by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Transfer of Functions, Abolition and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/98). By virtue of regulation 3(1), the Directions are treated as if contained in a direction given by the Secretary of State to NHS England.

patients under the age of 18 who are receiving continuing care under the National Framework for Children and Young People's Continuing Care.

- 4.4 Identify, through the AACC data set where patients are being placed out of area, where care packages are being changed frequently, and other evidence that may indicate poor outcomes for the patient that can be identified and addressed.
- 4.5 Monitor patients going through local appeals processes to ensure appeals are resolved in a timely manner, and that the rate of overturned or accepted appeals is within a typical range.
- 4.6 Allow linkage of the AACC data set at patient-level to other data sets, so that increased/reduced hospital admissions, medication and other important attributes are visible.

5. Establishing and operating information systems

- 5.1 The Secretary of State directs NHS England to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of the information described in the All Age Continuing Care Requirements Specification version 1 (as published with these Directions) as updated periodically by the Secretary of State in consultation with NHS England (**the Requirements Specification**).
- 5.2 The Secretary of State directs NHS England to analyse the information which NHS England obtains by complying with these Directions (**the Information**), as may be required by the Secretary of State or as NHS England considers necessary to achieve the Purpose.
- 5.3 Such analysis includes:
 - 5.3.1 analysis by reference or linkage to any other information described in the Requirements Specification(s);
 - 5.3.2 analysis for data quality purposes, including undertaking comparison and consistency analysis of the same or similar information obtained by complying with other directions under section 254 of the 2012 Act; and
 - 5.3.3 any other analysis of the Information as NHS England considers appropriate to maintain data quality, accuracy and consistency in relation to the Information.
- 5.4 In exercising functions under these Directions, NHS England must act in accordance with the Requirements Specification(s) and generally in such a way as to achieve the Purpose.

6. Service Levels etc.

In exercising functions under these Directions, NHS England must act in accordance with the service levels, support and monitoring requirements, and the reporting and governance requirements notified by the Secretary of State in writing to NHS England as at the date these Directions come into force, or as

those requirements are amended and notified by an authorised officer of the Department of Health and Social Care on behalf of the Secretary of State in writing to NHS England from time to time.

7. Fees and Accounts

NHS England must keep proper accounts, and proper records in relation to the accounts, in connection with these Directions.

8. Duration

NHS England must exercise functions under these Directions until they are revoked by a further direction in writing by an authorised officer of the Department of Health and Social Care on behalf of the Secretary of State.

9. Review of these Directions

These Directions will be reviewed from time to time. Any amendments to the Directions or the Requirements Specification will only be made after consultation with NHS England.

10. Revocation

The NHS Continuing Healthcare Directions 2022⁷ are revoked.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. G. ...', is written in a cursive style.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

Date signed: 16th August 2024

⁷ [NHS Continuing Healthcare Directions 2022](#) The Directions were given by the Secretary of State to the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) on 9 March 2022. HSCIC was abolished, and its functions transferred to NHS England, with effect from 1 February 2023, by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Transfer of Functions, Abolition and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/98.). By virtue of regulation 6, those Directions have effect as if references to HSCIC were references to NHS England (and the Directions accordingly have effect as if given to NHS England).