

4 April 2022

District Nursing, Reablement and Rehabilitation Services

DISTRICT NURSE SERVICES

1. Where do district nurse services sit within the community health service?

District Nurses are employed by Belfast Trust and provide skilled nursing care in patients own homes, to meet an identified nursing need.

2. Are district nurses aligned with GP practices?

Yes. Each GP practice have their aligned District Nurses. At weekends and bank holidays, there is cross cover by the wider locality District Nursing Team.

3. What is the working relationship between district nurses and GP practices?

There are 80 GP practices across Belfast. The District Nurses and GPs work closely together on many complex patient issues.

4. Who makes decisions on when individuals receive district nurse services?

Anyone can make a referral to District Nursing services. The District Nurse will make a holistic assessment of the patient to establish their nursing needs.

5. Is authorisation from GP practices required before an individual can receive district nurse services?

No. Anyone can receive District Nursing services. Patients are required to be registered with a GP practice in Northern Ireland and the District Nurse and the GP will often work together to manage patient care at home, depending on patient need.

REABLEMENT SERVICE

1. Who makes decisions on whether an individual receives a Reablement care package?

Referrals are received from the Community Social Work service or from the Hospital Discharge Team and are screened, prior to acceptance, by a Senior Occupational Therapist to ensure the service user will benefit from the services.

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2. Is district nursing automatically included in a Reablement care package?

District Nurses are included if the patient has an identified nursing need.

3. If not, who makes decisions on whether district nursing is included in the care package?

If a nursing need is identified, then a referral is made to the District Nursing service for further assessment.

4. Who makes decisions on how district nurses are involved (e.g., who is responsible for collating care plans, deciding on frequency of visits, checks carried out on each visit etc.?)

If a nursing need is identified, then the District Nurse will decide on their plan of care and frequency of visit.

5. Are general practitioners involved in this decision in any way? If so, how?

This will depend on the patient's condition. The District Nurse will involve a GP, if required.

6. Can district nursing be provided as part of Reablement services, without any involvement of GPs?

Yes. If the patient has an identified nursing need, the District Nursing service will be required, regardless of any other service.

7. Is authorisation from GP practices required before an individual can receive district nurse services?

No. Anyone can receive District Nursing services. Patients are required to be registered with a GP in Northern Ireland and the District Nurse and the GP will often work together to manage a patient's care at home, depending on the assessed need.

REHABILITATION SERVICE

1. Who makes decisions on whether an individual receives a Rehabilitation care package?

The Hospital Discharge Team signposts appropriate referrals for individuals who would benefit from a rehabilitation package.

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