

27 February 2025

Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare

If data for calendar years cannot be provided, please instead give the average timeframe for the most relevant period for which data can be compiled (for example, December 2022, December 2023, and December 2024).

1. In the following calendar years (2022, 2023 & 2024), how many referrals of any form were made to the Trust for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare?
2. How many of the referrals in Question 1 were rejected as inappropriate by the Trust? Please provide figures for the following calendar years 2022, 2023 & 2024.
3. Please explain, in general terms, the main reasons for which referrals were deemed inappropriate?
4. How many of the referrals in Question 1 were withdrawn / closed by a) the referrer, or b) the patient / their family. Please provide figures for the following calendar years 2022, 2023 & 2024.
5. How many of the referrals in Question 1 were withdrawn / closed as a result of the patient dying before any funding was put in place? Please provide figures for the following calendar years 2022, 2023 & 2024.
6. In the following calendar years, how many referrals were accepted for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare – 2022, 2023 & 2024.
7. In the following calendar years (2022, 2023 & 2024), what was the average timeframe - for Fast-Track CHC referrals that were accepted - between receipt of the completed Fast Track Pathway Tool and the care package being commissioned. Please provide the answer in hours where possible, or otherwise in days.
8. In the following calendar years (2022, 2023 & 2024), what was the average timeframe - for Fast-Track CHC referrals that were accepted - between receipt of the completed Fast Track Pathway Tool and the funding for the care package being put in place. Please provide the answer days.
9. Please can you explain the decision-making process for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare referrals, giving details of all criteria involved in the process between receiving the referral and commissioning support?

As part of this, please could you explain:

1. The criteria you use for who can make a Fast-Track CHC referral (for example, are non-NHS medical professionals, care home nurses and/or GPs able to do this?)

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- 2. Whether Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare referrals made by an appropriate clinician are subject to further checks by professionals working for, or on behalf of, the Trust before being granted? Please explain this process if so.**
- 3. Whether a patient referred by an appropriate clinician is required to meet further criteria, such as having a primary health need, in order to qualify for Fast-Track support?**

This is an NHS England concept, which is not applicable in Northern Ireland.

Therefore, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust is unable to answer any of these questions.