

Guidance on admitting patients to care homes from hospital discharge

The following guidance should be used when discharging patients from hospital into care homes:

In line with the gold standard national guidance on infection control COVID-19 (*Guidance for infection prevention and control in healthcare settings. Version 1.0 available on gov.uk*) – “Patients can be discharged (from hospital) before resolution of symptoms provided they are deemed clinically fit for discharge and should be advised to self-isolate as per *staying at home guidance*” (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>).

After 7 days, if the person who has become ill feels better and no longer has a high temperature, they can return to their normal routine. Please note – it is important to not apply the 14 day self isolation for contacts guidance that is applicable to households – as in care homes there are staff who can monitor symptoms of residents and act accordingly.

Please also note – the NHS uses the same 7 days from onset of symptoms rule (with day 6 and 7 having to be afebrile) for the return of health care workers who were affected.