

COVID-19 Discharge Requirements

From 19th March 2020, under the Covid-19 Discharge Service Requirements: unless required to be in hospital NHS patients must not remain in an NHS bed

Decision-making should take place at ward level

Discharge to be considered each day at:
(1) clinically-led reviews of all patients at early morning rounds; and
(2) with at least twice daily review of all patients.

When considering discharge, clinicians should consider:
(1) can care at this level be provided in another setting?
(2) what value are we adding against the risks of being in hospital?
(3) what do they need next?
(4) why not home, why not today?
(5) if not home today, then when?

If patients do not meet the criteria, discharge should be arranged. Upon the decision to discharge:

Patients requiring a bed are those:
Requiring ITU or HDU care
Requiring oxygen therapy/ NIV
Requiring IV fluids/ medication
NEWS 2 > 3
Diminished consciousness with likely recovery
Acute functional impairment
Last house of life
Lower limb surgery within 48 hours
Thorax-abdominal/ pelvic surgery within 72 hours
Invasive procedure within 24 hours

(1) the patient and their family should receive the **discharge leaflet**;
(2) they must be informed of the next steps;
(3) patients must be transferred off the ward within 1 hour of decision

The Trust should also create discharge teams to smooth transitions. They will:
(1) co-ordinate with transport providers;
(2) co-ordinate with volunteers to support discharged patients; and
(3) provide "settle in" support.