

Do I own the personal health budget that is unspent?

No, if your needs are met and there is money left in your personal health budget, then NHS Lambeth CCG is entitled to recover this money. In the event of your death the personal health budget would not form part of your estate.

Personal health budgets are not a welfare benefit. They are not an entitlement to a fixed amount of money and are not taken into account when calculating benefits.

Do I show NHS Lambeth CCG how I spend my personal health budget?

Yes, you must keep all receipts, invoices and other documents (e.g. bank statements) showing which services you have bought. These records must be kept for at least six years.

Your support plan will be reviewed three months from the date of your first payment and at least annually thereafter. Further reviews may be requested at any time.

NHS Lambeth CCG and Lambeth Council will also review how your direct payments have been spent at least three months after the first payment and at least annually thereafter.

What happens if I do not need my direct payments, e.g. if I go to hospital?

If you are urgently admitted to hospital you need to tell us as soon as you can. If you inform your care co-ordinator, they will inform NHS Lambeth CCG.

You must notify your care co-ordinator who will inform NHS Lambeth CCG if there are any significant changes (e.g. to your health, if you have to go to hospital, or are no longer able to manage your Personal Health Budget yourself, or you move to a different address).

If payment is not required for 28 days or more, e.g. you are admitted to hospital, NHS Lambeth CCG may suspend or discontinue payments. You are required to notify your care co-ordinator who will inform NHS Lambeth CCG should this happen.

If you want to re-start your direct payments when leaving hospital, you will tell your care co-ordinator, who will tell NHS Lambeth CCG.

If you or your representative does not spend the personal health budget, as detailed in your support plan, NHS Lambeth CCG can demand repayment, withdraw the personal health budget and/ or NHS Lambeth CCG will take over the management of your care arrangement.

If you have any questions or comments on continuing healthcare or personal health budgets, please contact the NHS Lambeth CCG Continuing Healthcare Team:

Tel: 020 3049 4311

Email: lamccg.chc@nhs.net

NHS

Lambeth

Clinical Commissioning Group

Direct Payments for Personal Health Budgets



You should read this booklet along with the booklet 'Personal health budgets', which explains what personal health budgets are, who can have one in Lambeth and how they work.

What do I need to do if I choose to have my personal health budget as direct payments?

If you want to take your personal health budget as a direct payment, then you will need to sign a 'direct payment agreement'

This is an agreement between you, NHS Lambeth CCG and Lambeth Council. You agree that you will spend the direct payment appropriately and that you will allow NHS Lambeth CCG to monitor how you spend the money.

You must spend the direct payment on services that have been written in your support plan, that has then been approved by NHS Lambeth CCG.

The Council agrees to make the direct payments on behalf of NHS Lambeth CCG. NHS Lambeth CCG agrees to fund the direct payments, so long as your needs are being met as stated in your support plan.

If you do not spend the money according to what is in your support plan, then NHS Lambeth CCG will stop making the direct payments.

What can I spend direct payments on?

Your personal health budget needs to be spent on meeting your health and wellbeing needs, as agreed in your support plan.

- Your care co-ordinator will work with you to decide how best to use your personal health budget. As a health professional, they will need to be satisfied that your health needs will be met.
- Your care coordinator will help you ensure that whoever provides you with any services does so according to recognised standards and regulations.
- Your personal health budget must not be spent on anything that is not detailed in your support plan unless you have already agreed it with NHS Lambeth CCG.
- You cannot spend your personal health budget on tobacco, alcohol, gambling, debt repayment or anything illegal.

You cannot use your direct payments to pay for any primary medical services provided by a GP (e.g. GP appointments and consultations) or to buy emergency health care.



Can I employ my own care worker?

Yes, but there are some rules which you will need to follow:

- If you are the patient and you know the person you want to employ, then it is your responsibility to ensure that the person has undergone a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check.
- If you are acting on behalf of the patient, then the person you want to employ must have a new Criminal Records Bureau check which you should see.
- If you are employing someone who is not a family member or a close friend, they must have a CRB check which you should see - so that you know whether they have any previous convictions.
- If you directly employ your care worker, you must have employers' liability insurance and use an accredited payroll service. Your care-coordinator can advise you about organisations which can help you to become an employer.
- These and all other associated costs must be detailed in your support plan.
- Close family members, living in the same home as you, are not allowed to be your employees.