



## Factsheet 58

# Paying for short-term and temporary care in a care home

October 2023

### About this factsheet

This factsheet explains the financial assessment rules that cover short-term and temporary care homes placements. These placements can be for various reasons, such as respite care or trial periods. A distinction is made between temporary care (up to eight weeks) and short-term care (up to eight weeks).

Factsheet 41, *How to get care and support*, has information on how you can get social care support and assistance from the local authority.

The information in this factsheet is correct for the period October 2023 to September 2024.

The information in this factsheet is applicable to England. If you are in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, please contact Age Cymru, Age Scotland or Age NI. Contact details are at the back of this factsheet.

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## Definitions of short-term, temporary and permanent residential care

Under the charging regulations:

**'short-term resident'** means being provided with accommodation in a care home for a period not exceeding eight weeks. An example of short-term care is where you are placed in a care home to receive respite care, possibly on a regular basis.

**'temporary resident'** means your stay is not intended to be permanent and it is unlikely to exceed 52 weeks. It can exceed this period in exceptional circumstances, L I L W L V X @ S a n h y Q \ H W R H H G weeks. There must be a plan to return home at some point.

means that you are not a short-term or temporary resident. See factsheet 10,

## **Local authority policy**

As this is a discretionary power, a local authority does not have to treat you as if you receive care and support at home if you enter a care home as a short-term resident. If they decide to treat you differently following the financial assessment, you can request a review of their decision and ask them to treat you as if you were living at home.

These types of paid-for services are different from free short-term rehabilitation. See section 8 for more information on this service.

## **Direct payments**

Direct payments can be used to purchase a short stay in a care home, for a period up to four consecutive weeks in any 12-month period. This can be to provide a respite break for a carer, for example.

If the period between two stays in a care home is less than four weeks, they are treated as consecutive and added together to make a cumulative total. If two stays in a care home are at least four weeks apart, they are not added together.

If you have four consecutive weeks in a care home, individually or cumulatively, you cannot use direct payments to pay for care home services until 12 months have passed from the start of the four-week period. If each stay is less than four weeks and there is an interim period of at least four weeks between two





## **7 If temporary becomes permanent**

Temporary residential care can become permanent. If this happens, the local authority should only financially assess you under permanent residential care rules from the date you agreed









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## Next update October 2024

The evidence sources used to create this factsheet are available on request. Contact [resources@ageuk.org.uk](mailto:resources@ageuk.org.uk)

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