



14. What is Discharge to Access?

What you need to know about Discharge to Access (D2A)



What is Discharge to Access?

Discharge to Assess (D2A) is a way of speeding up the discharge of patients who no longer require acute hospital care but still require some level of support. Its aim is to help people keep their independence and remain in their own home. The D2A approach has three pathways:

- Discharge to bedded rehabilitation and Reablement to support return home (see '**Fact Sheet 12: What is Reablement?**')
- A care home bed with recovery and complex assessment
- Further health or social care assessments outside of the hospital environment

To find out whether you need care and support after your discharge from hospital, you will need an assessment from adult social care (see '**Fact Sheet 8: My assessment**').

Why is Discharge to Assess (D2A) coming in now?

The D2A approach is not new. Many local services have been working towards a swift hospital discharge approach for a number of years.

Many hospitals introduced D2A on a temporary basis during the pandemic. This was because of the need to discharge patients from hospital as quickly as possible to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and free up capacity to treat very ill patients.

The decision to keep the D2A approach has been made in case there are further outbreaks. **The NHS Long Term Plan** is also focussed on developing capacity in out-of-hospital services.

Discharge to Assess (D2A) in Buckinghamshire

We started using D2A in Buckinghamshire in March 2020, which coincided with the first COVID-19 lockdown. We started receiving referrals for D2A beds and packages of care at the end of March 2020.

Is Discharge to Assess (D2A) already established anywhere else?

A quick reference guide for Discharge to Assess was published by NHS England in 2016 and provides a number of examples of where services are already operating successfully. You can find the guide here:

www.nhs.uk/nhsengland/keogh-review/documents/quick-guides/quick-guide-discharge-to-access.pdf

An example of a successful pathway implemented in Scotland can also be found on The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy's (CSP) Innovations database.

 **Go online:** innovations.csp.org.uk

 In the Search box, type 'East Lothian'

 Select 'The East Lothian Discharge to Access Service' from the search results

Use this space to write down things you need to remember to tell us

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How to contact us

Adult Care Services

To get more information about adult social care services you can:

 **Go online:** www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk and click on 'Care for Adults'

 **Call:** Social worker: _____ Team: _____

Are you worried about somebody?

If you or someone you know is at risk of abuse or neglect:

 **Call:** 0800 137915 (24 hours a day)

If you would like to give us feedback

 **Go online:** Please complete the online form at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

If you prefer you can:

 **Call:** 01296 387844

 **Email:** complimentsandcomplaints@buckinghamshire.gov.uk