



Community nursing referral criteria

Information for patients and carers

What does the team offer?

Our community nursing teams provide healthcare to housebound patients in the home.

We provide short-term interventions or episodes of care for those with a nursing need. We work closely with GPs and other community health services to prevent admissions to hospital and care homes.

We also work with patients and their families/carers to equip them with the skills and knowledge to manage their conditions independently at home. This can also include the provision of equipment, such as eye drop dispensers.

Who is the service for?

The service is available to **housebound patients aged 18 and over who are registered with a GP surgery in Bristol**. This includes patients who live at home, in supported housing or in a residential home. Patients who live in nursing homes are not eligible because their nursing care is already provided.

What is meant by 'housebound'?

A patient is housebound if they cannot leave their home at all, or if they require **significant assistance** to leave the house. This may be due to illness, frailty, surgery, disability, mental ill health, or because they are nearing the end of life. A person who is housebound would be unable to receive their healthcare in a GP practice or clinic.

A patient is **not housebound** if they are able to leave their home environment with minimal assistance. This includes the ability to use a wheelchair with no/minimal support, access to transport via relatives/friends, or the ability to use a taxi or community transport (eg Dial-a-Ride). A person who is not housebound would be able to attend a GP practice or clinic to receive their healthcare.

Completing your care

We continually review the needs of all our patients. Our care for you will end once your clinical needs have been met, or if no clinical needs are evident within 18 weeks of last contact.

Patients who do not meet the criteria for being housebound will be discharged from the service, and advised to access their GP practice or other clinic-based services on an ongoing basis.

If you have any concerns, please speak to your GP surgery who will be able to put you in touch with the community nursing team manager for your practice.