



# **NHS Continuing Healthcare Funded Care Report Frequently Asked Questions 2024/25**

**Version: 1.0**

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# 1 What is the difference between ‘Cumulative Activity’ and ‘Snapshot Activity’?

## 1.1 Snapshot Activity

***Snapshot Activity is an isolated observation of numbers eligible as at a specific date i.e. the last day of the quarter.***

Working Example of NHS Continuing Healthcare (NHS CHC) Snapshot Activity

Snapshot Activity at the end of quarter 1 is the number of people eligible for NHS CHC *specifically on* the 30th June and this would not include anyone who became no longer eligible before or on this date due to death, discharge or being no longer eligible for any other reason.

This is calculated for you in the final column of Table 1 by adding the number of cases already eligible at the beginning of the quarter (column A) to the number of cases newly eligible in the quarter (column B) and taking away any cases no longer eligible in the quarter (column C).

## 1.2 Cumulative Activity

***Cumulative Activity is a running total of all NHS CHC cases that have been eligible for any period within the year to date, or have been agreed eligible in the year to date, even if they also became no longer eligible within the year to date.***

Working Example of NHS CHC Cumulative Activity

Cumulative Activity at the end of quarter 2 is the number of cases that have been eligible, or agreed newly eligible at *any time* within the financial year to date (i.e. between April 1<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September). This would include those that were already eligible at the beginning of the financial year and any newly eligible cases on or after April 1<sup>st</sup> (even if they also became no longer eligible within the financial year to date i.e. *on or after* April 1<sup>st</sup>).

This is calculated for you in the final column of Table 2 by taking the cumulative total at the end of the previous quarter and adding on any cases that have become newly eligible during the current reporting quarter.

NB: The only exception to this is in the Q1 reports, where the baseline in both Tables 1 and 2 is an Activity **Snapshot** to capture the numbers eligible at the start of a new financial year. From Q2 onwards, Table 2's baseline becomes a **Cumulative** Activity to start picking up the running total of all eligible cases year to date.

# 2 What's the difference between a Previously Un-assessed Period of Care (PUPoC) payment and a reimbursement?

## 2.1 Reimbursement

***A Reimbursement is a payment made to cover a specified period after a standard NHS CHC referral to when the regular funding commences (or the patient passes away).***

Individuals on a waiting list for assessment may have reimbursements. The National Framework sets out that when a decision has taken more than 28 calendar days from referral, backdated NHS CHC payments may need to be made to cover the costs of services from day 29 after the referral. This backdated payment for a Standard NHS CHC case that has been processed late is a reimbursement not a PUPoC.

## 2.2 PUPoC Payment

***A PUPoC Payment is a payment made to cover a claim for a past period for which the patient had not been referred to NHS CHC.***

E.g. an individual or relatives of an individual may believe that they might have met eligibility for a past period and ask for a PUPoC assessment.

**NB:** A patient might be alive or deceased in both categories so this is not a distinguishing criterion. A patient could also have a reimbursement *and* a PUPoC.

### Working Example

*"We receive a referral in May, but a decision is not made until June and the funding is backdated to May. Would this backdated period be classed as a PUPoC payment or standard NHS CHC?"*

**ANSWER:** It should still be counted as standard NHS CHC not a PUPoC. This is a standard application so this is a reimbursement not a PUPoC.

## 3 How do we record an individual who is eligible for both standard NHS Continuing Healthcare (NHS CHC) via the normal assessment route and a PUPoC?

**ANSWER:** PUPoCs are counted separately to standard NHS CHC in the Funded Care Report and are counted as separate claims in Table 10. PUPoCs relate to number of eligible claims e.g. an individual may have more than one eligible PUPoC for different time periods.

In cases where an individual is eligible for standard NHS CHC via the normal assessment route *and* a PUPoC, any data relating to the PUPoC should be recorded in Table 10 (and / or Table 9 if appropriate) whilst activity relating to the standard NHS CHC package should be included in Tables 1 to 9 as appropriate.

For example, an individual is referred for NHS CHC via the usual assessment route. They have a checklist carried out which comes out positive followed by a DST and are then agreed eligible for NHS CHC during quarter 2. They are included as newly eligible for NHS CHC in the 'Number Agreed Eligible in Quarter' column (Table 1) in the Sub-ICB Location's quarter 2 report. Following their eligibility decision, their family believe they should have met NHS CHC eligibility for a past period of care from 2016 up to the time they were referred for NHS CHC and request a PUPoC assessment. This is agreed eligible in quarter 4 and is included in the quarter 4 report under Table 10 'PUPoCs Agreed Eligible YTD'.

#### **4 In instances where an individual has more than one PUPoC agreed eligible how should this be counted?**

In instances where an individual has more than one past period agreed eligible these should be included as separate claims (e.g. 2 PUPoCs agreed eligible for the same individual would be counted as 2 PUPoC claims agreed eligible YTD).

An example may be more than one PUPoC for the same individual for separate periods (e.g. one PUPoC covering January 2016 to April 2016 and another covering November 2016 to February 2017).

Another example may be where an overall period for consideration is broken down further by the ICB, either by different episodes of need or according to availability of evidence, for the ICB to consider each 'sub-period' separately. For example a claim may be submitted which covers the period January 2016 to February 2017. The period from January to April 2016 may have all the required evidence and records to ascertain eligibility whereas the remaining period from May 2016 onwards (up to February 2017) signifies a change in need and further work is needed to gather the appropriate records and evidence to ascertain eligibility. The ICB may decide to assess the period from January to April 2016 sooner so this can be funded if eligible, and consider the remaining period from May 2016 to February 2017 later once the necessary evidence is available. Each part of the claim to which a distinct eligible decision is applied should be counted separately, and if agreed eligible, included in reporting according to the reporting quarter the eligible decision is made.

#### **5 What's the difference between a closedown and non-closedown PUPoC and which should be counted?**

**ANSWER:** In 2012 the Department of Health introduced 'closedown' deadlines for requesting assessments of eligibility for past periods of care falling between 1st April 2004 and 31st March 2012. These deadlines have now passed and all valid cases have had an initial assessment. However, it's still possible some 'closedown' PUPoCs may still become eligible via requests to review eligibility decisions (i.e. local resolution and independent reviews).

ICBs may also receive requests for assessments of past periods falling after 31st March 2012 ('non-closedown' PUPoCs). Both of these scenarios fall under the definition of being a PUPoC (a specific request to consider eligibility for a past period of care).

For the purposes of Funded Care Reporting, all PUPoCs should be counted irrespective of whether they are closedown or non-closedown (provided they were agreed eligible in the current financial year) and recorded in Table 10 (and / or Table 9 if appropriate).

#### **6 Should data be based on the date people are agreed as being eligible for NHS CHC or the date when funding commences?**

**ANSWER:** The date they are agreed as being eligible.



Activity should be included in the quarter in which an **‘eligible decision’** is made **not** the date the funding commences.

E.g. patient X has a checklist and DST carried out during June. The ICB agree the case eligible in early August, and backdate / reimburse the funding to day 29 after the initial checklist (see question [2](#) for further information on reimbursements).

Even though the funding is backdated to the checklist in quarter 1 the case wasn’t **agreed eligible** until quarter 2. Therefore, patient X is included as ‘Newly Eligible’ in the quarter 2 report for the relevant Sub-ICB Location.

In the case where an individual is agreed eligible but funding hasn’t yet commenced, the activity should still be included in the quarter in which the **‘eligible decision’** is made.

Individuals who are agreed eligible but turn down funding, or do not go on to commence a package for any other reason, should also still be included in the activity (in this case they would also be included under ‘No longer eligible’).

## 7 What should we do if our baselines change from what was reported the previous quarter?

### Working Example

*“Our Snapshot Activity as at the last day of quarter 2 was 120 on our Q2 report. However, following submission of our Q2 report we received late notification that three cases had deceased during September meaning it should have been a Snapshot Activity of 117. Should we use the figure we reported on our Q2 report as the baseline for our Q3 report or use the corrected figure?”*

**ANSWER:** Please report the most up to date and correct figure in your baseline i.e. 117. If there is a mismatch between what your headcount was at the end of Q2 on your Q2 report compared to what is known at the time of your Q3 report (e.g. after receiving updated or corrected information), then please use the correct figures for the baseline in the Q3 report. Where there are any discrepancies from what you reported last time, please include a comment to confirm that the Q3 version is correct (e.g. “Baseline updated from Q2 figure due to.... [brief explanation why].”

Do not report the incorrect activity from last quarter as your baseline and then put erroneous instances of ‘Numbers Agreed Eligible in Quarter’ or ‘No Longer Eligible in Quarter’ to yield the correct activity at the end of the quarter (as these are not genuine instances of newly eligible or no longer eligible cases in that reporting quarter, this would make these data items incorrect and could also cause double counting in your cumulative total in Table 2).

The Sub-ICB Location’s Funded Care Report template includes the Sub-ICB Location’s closing activity from the previous quarter for ease of reference to what was reported last time. These appear in grey ‘For info’ columns at the beginning of Tables 1 & 2. Your opening activities at the beginning of the quarter reported in the baselines of Tables 1 & 2 would normally be expected to be the same, or at least similar to, the closing activities reported last quarter. However, in instances like the above, when late information means corrections are required to the activity reported last time, please report the correct figure



and include an explanatory note in the comments section where there are any significant discrepancies.

## **8 How should cases be recorded when they are not eligible for NHS CHC but are receiving interim care (e.g. funding without prejudice or rehabilitation)?**

**ANSWER:** Examples of interim cases include persons receiving temporary funding pending an NHS CHC eligibility decision or persons who have ceased being eligible for NHS CHC but are still being funded (e.g. requests for reviews of an eligibility decision or pending transfer to social services).

Individuals on discharge to assess pathways are also examples of cases that may receive interim funding or rehabilitation before eligibility for NHS CHC is determined at a later stage post discharge.

Interim arrangements put in place following an NHS CHC referral (i.e. the referral has not resulted in assessment for NHS CHC and interim funding / arrangements have been put in place instead), should still be included in referrals information in table 3 and referral outcomes in table 4, location of DST table 6 if applicable, and 28 days information in tables 7 and 8 but should not appear in activity for eligible NHS CHC cases in tables 1 and 2, as they do not meet the NHS CHC definition as per section 2.2.1 (p6) of the report guidance, until the point they are agreed NHS CHC eligible (if applicable) following assessment. Please also see 6.4 Number discounted before assessment completed in quarter and 9.2 Number of concluded referrals within 28 days in the report guidance.

## **9 How should we record a case that moves category part way through the financial year e.g. a 'Fast Track' case is reviewed and becomes re-categorised under 'Standard NHS CHC (non Fast Track)'?**

**ANSWER:** If a case is NHS CHC eligible under Fast Track and then is re-categorised further down the line to Standard NHS CHC (non Fast Track) then they are still only counted once.

Do not put them through the 'No Longer Eligible' column on the Fast Track line and then 'Newly Eligible' on the 'Standard NHS CHC (non Fast Track)' line (as they didn't technically become 'no longer eligible' for NHS CHC and this would also cause double counting in your cumulative total in Table 2).

Similarly, a review of a Fast Track case that results in a completion of a DST should not be counted as a new referral, as the individual is already eligible for NHS CHC, therefore this is a review. Please see question [12](#) for further information.

Instead, if they were Fast Track in Q1 but then changed to Standard NHS CHC (non Fast Track) in Q2, on your Q2 report reduce your 'Fast Track' baseline by 1 and increase your 'Standard NHS CHC (non Fast Track)' baseline by 1. Then include details in the

comments section e.g. “Baselines adjusted due to one case moving from Fast Track to Standard NHS CHC (non Fast Track)”.

## 10 How should we count an individual already eligible whose case transfers to a different Sub-ICB Location?

**ANSWER:** To ascertain which Sub-ICB Location case activity falls under, the principles from the [‘Who Pays?’](#) guidance should be followed. If an individual is eligible for NHS CHC within one Sub-ICB Location but is then transferred to another Sub-ICB Location within the same year then the case should be counted in both Sub-ICB Location’s cumulative NHS CHC activity year to date in Table 2 (so as to be included in the running total of all cases of that type that have been eligible within the year to date – please also see ‘How activity should be recorded’ at section 1.3, page 5 of the reporting guidance). The case would also appear in the NHS CHC snapshot activity of numbers eligible at the end of the quarter (Table 1) for the new Sub-ICB Location (provided they were still eligible by the end of the reporting quarter) but would no longer appear in the NHS CHC Snapshot of numbers eligible at the end of the quarter for the originating Sub-ICB Location..

If a case is transferred to another Sub-ICB Location but the change is backdated / reimbursed to the start of the financial year (or before the start of the financial year) then the originating Sub-ICB Location should remove the activity from both the table 1 and table 2 baselines including an explanatory comment if necessary e.g. “CHC cumulative and snapshot activity baselines have reduced from previous quarter due to 1 case transferring to another Sub-ICB Location with the change backdated to pre April 1st”.

All adjustments should be made in the baselines of tables 1 and 2 as appropriate and not by putting the individual through the ‘no longer eligible’ line on one Sub-ICB Location report and the ‘newly eligible’ line on the other Sub-ICB Location report (as the individual didn’t technically become no longer eligible or newly eligible, they just moved ICB).

## 11 Which NHS CHC referrals should be counted and start 28 days?

**ANSWER:** All cases that have been referred for full assessment of NHS CHC eligibility as per the definition of a referral in section 5.1 p12 of the report guidance should be counted and also trigger the start point for the purposes of counting 28 days (as per section 9.2 p15 of the report guidance). This includes:

- Referrals with incorrect or missing information  
Earliest notification to the ICB (or person or body acting on behalf of the ICB) that full assessment of NHS CHC eligibility is required constitutes the point at which a referral should be counted and 28 days counting starts, irrespective of whether or not there is any further processing or triage required to determine whether the Checklist is positive or negative, or whether or not there is any other information missing or any questions unanswered on the Checklist. These scenarios should still be counted as a referral - even though they may be based on incorrect / incomplete information they were still referred all the same. If an individual is referred for NHS CHC assessment via a ‘positive’ checklist but quality assurance (QA) of the paperwork identifies that the checklist is in fact negative, the referral should still be

counted at the point of earliest notification (and before any further processing, QA or triage on the Checklist takes place), however if it transpires that the checklist is in fact negative, and the case does not need to proceed to full assessment, the referral should also be counted in 'Number discounted before assessment completed in quarter' in table 4 (as per 6.4 p13 of the report guidance). Referrals resubmitted more than once due to incomplete or incorrect information should only be counted once and from the earliest notification.

- Referrals with missing consent

In instances where referrals are made but a consent form is not included, or the consent question on page 6 of the Checklist is not completed, the referral should still be counted. As per the above item, even though the paperwork is incomplete the individual has still been referred for full assessment all the same. The ICB should ensure that any missing information is obtained as swiftly as possible, to allow the CHC referral to proceed to full assessment. The referral-to-assessment clock should not be paused or the clock-start delayed while this information is being obtained.

- Different referrals for the same individual relating to different needs / time periods

Genuine instances of more than one referral for the same individual i.e. due to a change in needs rather than administrative error (see 'Referrals with incorrect or missing information' above), or due to different periods of care (e.g. pre and post **fully NHS funded** interim care in a discharge to assess model – see below), should be counted separately. Note that this scenario would apply with individuals previously referred and found not eligible, who were subsequently re-referred due to a change in needs. An individual already eligible for CHC, who has another DST carried out due to a change in needs, would not be counted as this is part of a review rather than a new referral.

- Referrals in discharge to assess or other interim care arrangements

In discharge to assess or other interim care arrangements, where **fully NHS funded** interim care is first provided instead of carrying out a full assessment, the initial referral can be discounted (thereby stopping 28 days counting). At the point the interim care has come to an end and / or the individual has stabilised, and a DST is requested again (either by carrying out another checklist or by direct referral for the DST to take place without carrying out another checklist), this counts as a new referral as it relates to a different period of care (i.e. from the end of the interim care onwards rather than from the original / first referral onwards which was covered by fully NHS funded interim care). If the interim care is not fully funded (e.g. part NHS funded and part social care or self-funded by the individual) the referral should **not** be discounted. If later assessment following the interim care finds the individual is NHS CHC eligible, the funding would normally need to be reimbursed to day 29 of the initial referral to cover the time the individual was paying for their own care. The original referral should therefore not be discounted and 28 days counting still applies until the point a verified decision on eligibility is made. See [13.1](#) and [13.2](#) for examples.

- Referrals resulting from FNC review

Only count the result of an FNC review as a referral if needs have materially changed and the case is referred for full assessment for NHS CHC by an MDT.

## 12 What types of activity should NOT be counted in numbers of referrals and therefore NOT start 28 days counting?

**ANSWER:** Activity which does not meet the definition of a referral in section 5.1 p12 of the report guidance should **not** be counted in numbers of referrals and should also not trigger 28 days counting. This includes:

- Negative checklists where a need for full assessment is not indicated
- Requests to review eligibility decisions (e.g. via the local resolution process. Local resolution cases referred back to the MDT following initial assessment should also not be included)
- Reviews of existing NHS CHC cases (including reviews of Fast Track cases resulting in completion of a DST)

Where individuals eligible for Fast Track CHC undergo a review, paragraph 265 p80 of the National Framework states that “there may be certain situations where the needs indicate that it is appropriate to review eligibility for NHS CHC”. Paragraph 268 p80 also states that “No individual identified through the Fast Track Pathway Tool who is eligible for NHS CHC should have this funding removed without their eligibility being re-considered through the completion of a DST by a multidisciplinary team (MDT)”. Reviews of Fast Track cases may therefore sometimes result in completion of a DST but this should not be counted as a new referral for NHS CHC. The definition of a referral (5.1 p12 of the report guidance) states “A referral is the earliest notification (to the ICB or person or body acting on behalf of the ICB) that full assessment of NHS CHC eligibility is required (e.g. a positive checklist, Fast Track Tool or other notification that full assessment is required). In this scenario the Fast Track tool will have already constituted the earliest notification that full assessment for NHS CHC is required (i.e. this was the original referral). At the point the individual has a full DST they are already eligible for NHS CHC (under Fast Track) therefore this is a review rather than a new referral for NHS CHC. Sometimes a review of a Fast Track case and completion of a DST may result in a category change from Fast track NHS CHC to Standard NHS CHC. Please see question [9](#) for how to deal with category changes in your reporting.

Reviews of existing Standard NHS CHC cases should also not be counted in numbers of referrals.

- PUPoCs

- Checklists from FNC reviews where there has been no material change in needs  
When reviewing the need for FNC potential eligibility for NHS CHC must always be considered. This will normally be achieved by completing a Checklist and where necessary a full assessment for NHS CHC using the DST. However as per section 83 of the [FNC Best Practice guidance](#) a DST will not be required where:
  - a Checklist and/or DST has previously been completed (with the result that the individual was not found eligible for NHS CHC),
  - and
  - it is clear that there has been no material change in need

### 13 In what scenarios are referrals discounted before being assessed for NHS CHC, also stopping 28 days?

**ANSWER:** Table 4 captures the outcomes of all referrals concluded in a given quarter. A referral is concluded when there has been a verified decision on NHS CHC eligibility or the referral has been discounted before assessment is complete. The point at which a referral is concluded also ends 28 days counting.

Depending on the outcome (eligible, not eligible, or discounted) all referrals that have concluded within a quarter should be counted in either column A, B or D as appropriate in Table 4.

Some worked examples of when referrals should or should not be discounted are included below (this is not exhaustive and there may be other examples).

#### 13.1 Example 1 – People provided with interim care

An individual is referred for NHS CHC assessment following a positive checklist however the individual's clinical team recommend a period of therapy and rehabilitation as they believe this could make a difference to the potential of the individual in the following weeks.

- Scenario 1: The individual is provided fully NHS funded interim care.

The referral therefore does not proceed any further in the NHS CHC assessment process as the individual is awarded fully NHS funded interim funding to provide rehabilitation and therapy instead. In this scenario the referral is counted as 'discounted before assessment complete' in table 4 as the individual has not been assessed and has not received a verified decision on NHS CHC eligibility. Interim funded cases should also not be reported within NHS CHC activity for this reason (i.e. they are not technically NHS CHC cases).

Another possibility is that the individual's needs change detrimentally following their rehabilitation, or there is no improvement, and they are referred for NHS CHC assessment again. As this is a new referral relating to a different time period / change in needs this should be counted again in table 3. This would also trigger a new clock start for the purposes of 28 days counting.

- Scenario 2 – The individual is provided partially funded interim care (e.g. part NHS funded and part social care or self-funded by the individual)

If the interim care is not fully NHS funded (e.g. part NHS funded and part social care or self-funded by the individual) the referral should **not** be discounted. If later assessment following the interim care finds the individual is NHS CHC eligible, the funding may need to be reimbursed to the point at which it is deemed the individual would have been eligible from, to cover the time the individual (or social care) was paying for the care. The original referral should therefore not be discounted and 28 days counting still applies until the point a verified decision on eligibility is made.

### 13.2 Example 2 - Deceased individuals

An individual is referred for NHS CHC assessment following a positive checklist but passes away before the NHS CHC assessment process is complete.

In some scenarios the referral will not be discounted and eligibility for the period the individual was alive will still need to be considered e.g. where an individual was fully or partially self-funded or funded by the Local Authority. Following the assessment / verified decision on eligibility the case then needs to be counted in Table 4 in either column A or B as appropriate.

In other scenarios the referrals for individuals who have passed away may be discounted before assessment is complete and should be included in column D e.g. where an individual was already being fully funded by the NHS at the time of referral (e.g. fully NHS funded interim care) the referral can be discounted.

### 13.3 Example 3 - Withdrawn by individual / their family

An individual is referred for NHS CHC assessment but the individual and their family wish to fund the care themselves and do not want to proceed with the NHS CHC assessment.

### 13.4 Example 4 - Withdrawn by the ICB

An individual is referred for NHS CHC assessment following a 'positive' checklist being sent to an ICB. However, once the ICB processes the checklist it transpires that it has not been scored correctly and is a negative rather than positive checklist (i.e. NHS CHC assessment is not required, and the case should not have been referred).

Therefore, the referral does not proceed to a DST assessment and is counted in Table 4 column D as discounted.

The referral should still be counted in Table 3 'number of referrals in quarter' (even though it wasn't referred correctly it was referred all the same).

Referrals via the Fast Track route may also be withdrawn by the ICB if it is deemed they do not meet the criteria for a Fast Track referral and the individual may be redirected to a different funding stream or referral route instead.



### 13.5 Example 5 - People requiring further acute treatment

Section 18.5 of the Practice Guidance Notes in the National Framework state: “If at any point after a Checklist has been sent to the ICB the individual’s needs change such that he/she requires further treatment, the completed Checklist will no longer be relevant and a new Checklist should be undertaken once the treatment has been completed.” A working example of this scenario would be:

An individual is referred for NHS CHC assessment following a positive checklist. The referral is counted in table 3 as a new referral in quarter and this also constitutes the ‘clock start’ for the purposes of 28 days counting. However, their condition deteriorates and they require further acute treatment. The referral is therefore discounted and included in ‘discounted before assessment complete’ in table 4, as this referral does not proceed any further in the NHS CHC assessment process. The point at which the referral is discounted constitutes the ‘clock stop’ for the purposes of 28 days counting.

The individual then completes their treatment and another checklist is undertaken. This checklist also comes out positive and is referred to the ICB. This second referral is also counted as a new referral in table 3 and again constitutes the ‘clock start’ for the purposes of counting 28 days. This time the individual is taken through the full assessment process and is agreed eligible. They are therefore counted in ‘number assessed as eligible for CHC’ in table 4 and this constitutes the ‘clock stop’ for 28 days counting.

Another possibility is that the second checklist does not result in a second referral, in which case, only the original discounted referral is counted for reporting purposes.

### 13.6 Example 7 - Referrals made via a ‘positive’ checklist but further QA of the paperwork identifies that the checklist is in fact negative

An individual is referred for NHS CHC assessment via a ‘positive’ checklist but QA of the paperwork identifies that the checklist is in fact negative. The referral should still be counted at the point of earliest notification (and before any further processing, QA or triage on the Checklist takes place), however if it transpires that the checklist is in fact negative, and the case does not need to proceed to full assessment, the referral should also be counted in ‘Number discounted before assessment completed in quarter’.

### 13.7 Example 8 - Fast Track tools which are not accepted (i.e. it is deemed they do not meet the criteria for a Fast Track referral and the individual may be redirected to a different funding stream or referral route instead)

Paragraph 242 p76 of the National Framework states that a “...completed Fast Track Pathway Tool... is in itself sufficient to establish eligibility.” ICBs must therefore “accept and immediately action a Fast Track Pathway Tool where the Tool has been properly completed.” (National Framework paragraph 260 p79). For this reason it is not possible to record a fast track fully assessed as not eligible in reporting.

However, as per paragraph 261 p79 of the National Framework, exceptionally “... there may be circumstances where ICBs receive a completed Tool which appears to show that



the individual's condition is not related to the [Fast Track] criteria at all. For example, if a completed Fast Track Pathway Tool states that the person has mental health needs and challenging behaviour but makes no reference to them having a rapidly deteriorating condition which may be entering a terminal phase. In these circumstances, the ICB should urgently ask the relevant clinician to clarify the nature of the person's needs and the reason for the use of the Fast Track Pathway Tool. Where it then becomes clear that the use of the Fast Track Pathway Tool was not appropriate, the clinician should be asked to submit a completed Checklist (if required) for assessment of eligibility through the process outlined in this National Framework."

For this reason, Fast Track tools which are not accepted constitute another example in which a referral may be discounted before assessment is complete. Fast Track tools which are not accepted (i.e. it is deemed they do not meet the criteria for a Fast Track referral and the individual may be redirected to a different funding stream or referral route instead) should be counted in 'discounted before assessment complete' rather than 'assessed not eligible'.

#### **14 How should we count an individual who is FNC eligible and changes to being NHS CHC eligible following review?**

**ANSWER:** If the individual is eligible for both FNC and NHS CHC in the same year count them in both the FNC and NHS CHC cumulative activities (so as to be included in the running total of all cases of that type that have been eligible within the year to date). They would also appear in NHS CHC snapshot activity of numbers eligible at the end of the quarter (provided they were still eligible by the end of the reporting quarter) but would no longer appear in the FNC Snapshot of numbers eligible at the end of the quarter.

If the individual changes from being FNC to NHS CHC eligible and the funding is backdated / reimbursed to the start of the financial year (or before the start of the financial year) then the activity should be moved to the NHS CHC sections Tables 1 – 10 as appropriate and removed from FNC Table 11 with an explanatory comment if necessary e.g. "FNC cumulative activity YTD has reduced from previous quarter due to 6 patients being reassessed as NHS CHC backdated to pre April 1<sup>st</sup>".

#### **15 Which DSTs should be counted in table 6 'Location of DST in quarter'?**

**ANSWER:** All DSTs carried out within the reporting quarter as a result of a referral (either as a result of a new referral or as a result of an FNC review if needs have materially changed) should be counted. Please use the same definition of a referral that is set out on page 12 of the report guidance. Please also see '[Which NHS CHC referrals should be counted and start 28 days?](#)' on page 10 of the FAQs for examples of which referrals should be counted.

If more than one DST is carried out for the same individual (e.g. if a first DST was not completed correctly/the time between the DST completion and panel was too long and it was deemed that the DST needed to be redone) then both DSTs should be counted.

## 16 What is an ‘acute hospital setting’ for the purposes of completing table 6 ‘Location of DST in quarter’?

**ANSWER:** Acute care in a hospital is where a patient receives active short-term treatment for a severe injury or episode of illness, an urgent medical condition, or during recovery from surgery. In this way it is different from chronic care or longer term care.

‘Acute hospital setting’ does not include those people in step down beds, community beds or people in a rehabilitation setting. Once someone moves into a step down bed this is classed as interim arrangements as outlined in the National Framework and a checklist should only be completed once the individual has met their potential.

Where step down beds have been purchased from acute providers for the purposes of rehabilitation or reablement it is expected that this would not constitute an ‘acute hospital setting’. Spinal Cord Injury Centres would also not constitute an acute hospital setting.

## 17 When does the clock start and stop for the purposes of counting 28 days referral time?

**ANSWER:** 28 days referral time starts from the earliest notification (to the ICB or organisation acting on behalf of the ICB) that full assessment of NHS CHC eligibility is required (e.g. a positive checklist or other notification that full assessment is required).

Referral time ends at the date the ICB makes a verified decision on eligibility (or the referral is discounted – see ‘Number discounted before assessment completed in quarter’ definition on page 13 of the report guidance).

The point at which the ICB (or organisation acting on behalf of the ICB) is notified of the need for full assessment of NHS CHC, and the clock starts, constitutes day 0. E.g. if a referral is received on April 10th, April 11th would be 1 day elapsed. If the verified decision on eligibility is made on April 25th this would constitute 15 days referral time.

Please note that the earliest notification that full assessment is required (as per the above definition) constitutes the point at which the referral should be counted (also starting the count of 28 days) irrespective of (a) whether or not the consent form is included; (b) whether or not the consent question on page 6 of the Checklist is completed; (c) whether or not there is any other information missing or any questions unanswered on the Checklist; and (d) whether or not there is any further processing or triage required to determine whether the Checklist is positive or negative.

The clock is not paused or stopped if the referral is not completed correctly. Please note that the National Framework does not specify any scenarios in which ICBs should ‘stop the clock’ when counting 28-day referral time. 28 days is counted in calendar days and not working days.

Genuine instances of more than one referral for full assessment for the same individual e.g. due to a change in needs rather than administrative error, or due to different periods of care (e.g. pre and post fully NHS funded interim care in a discharge to assess model)

should be counted separately. For the purposes of this report 28 days referral time relates to the initial assessment following a referral as per the referral definition on page 12 of the report guidance. Requests to review eligibility decisions via the local resolution process following initial assessment which are referred back to the MDT should not be included.

Please see questions 11 and 13 for further information on which referrals should be counted for the purposes of 28 days counting and examples of scenarios where referrals are discounted before being assessed for NHS CHC, also stopping 28 days.

## **18 Can someone self-refer by completing a Checklist themselves, and would this trigger the start of counting 28 days?**

**ANSWER:** No. Section 14.1 of the National Framework states that individuals cannot self-refer: “If the individual is known to a health or social care practitioner, they could ask that practitioner to complete a Checklist. Alternatively, they should contact their ICBNHS Continuing Healthcare team to ask for someone to visit to complete the Checklist, or if they already have a care home or support provider, they could ask them to contact the ICB on their behalf. Where the need for a Checklist is brought to the attention of the ICB through these routes it should respond in a timely manner, having regard to the nature of the needs identified. In most circumstances it would be appropriate to complete a Checklist within 14 calendar days of such a request.”

The request to complete a checklist does not meet the definition for a referral for full assessment (please see section 5.1 page 11 of the report guidance for a definition of referral). If the outcome of the checklist indicates that the individual requires full assessment and they are referred for this, then the referral should be counted and 28 days start at the point the ICB (or person or body acting on behalf of the ICB) is notified / aware that full assessment is required.

## **19 At what point does the 28 day clock start following positive screen (checklist) when the screening is undertaken by a non ICB employee (third party) who is not acting on the ICB’s behalf?**

**ANSWER:** Where CHC screening (checklist) is undertaken by a third party who is not acting on the ICB’s behalf, and the screen is positive, the clock start commences at the point the ICB, or person or body acting on behalf of the ICB, is notified that a full assessment is required. Notification can include by phone or email and may happen prior to documentation being sent. Once the ICB, or acting person or body, has been notified of the need for full assessment, the referral should be counted and 28 days counting start, before any QA of screening (checklist) completion. If any subsequent QA of the referral indicates that full assessment is not required (e.g. the referral was based on a false positive checklist), and the referral is not taken forward for full assessment, then it should be counted in Table 4 column D ‘Number discounted before assessment completed in quarter’. Referrals which are resubmitted more than once due to incomplete or incorrect

information should only be counted once and from the earliest notification (please see question 11).

## 20 At what point does the 28 day clock start following positive screen (checklist) when the screening is undertaken by a ICB employee or a non ICB employee acting on behalf of the ICB (e.g. trusted assessor)?

**ANSWER:** Where CHC screening (checklist) is undertaken by an ICB employee, or a non ICB employee acting on behalf of the ICB (e.g. trusted assessor), the ICB notification (clock start) commences at the point this individual is aware that full assessment is needed (i.e. at the point of the checklist being positive). This will be prior to any QA of screening (checklist) completion. If any subsequent QA of the referral indicates that full assessment is not required (e.g. the referral was based on a false positive checklist), and the referral is not taken forward for full assessment, then it should be counted in Table 4 column D 'Number discounted before assessment completed in quarter'. Referrals which are resubmitted more than once due to incomplete or incorrect information should only be counted once and from the earliest notification (please see question 11).

## 21 What are transition cases and how should we report them?

**ANSWER:** Transition cases refer to children and young people (under 18 years of age) who may transition to adult NHS CHC services and are referred for NHS CHC assessment before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. ICBs may also decide to carry out a full assessment for CHC before the individual turns 18 as part of the transitional planning process and to ensure that there is no delay in setting up an appropriate care package for eligible cases.

The latest National Framework includes clarity that the 28 calendar day timescale does not apply to children and young people in transition to adult services. For this reason there is a 20% tolerance in the ICB assurance standard for 'percentage of referrals complete in 28 days' (ICBs must ensure in more than 80% of cases the NHS CHC eligibility decision is made within 28 days) to account for this and other valid and unavoidable reasons for the process taking longer.

Snapshot information on 'incomplete referrals exceeding 28 days' in tables 7 and 8 has no such tolerance or other remedial action to address the inclusion of transitional cases however, and omitting transition cases in these sections is more straightforward.

Transition cases should therefore be included in **all activity** throughout the report where applicable **apart from** snapshot information on 'incomplete referrals exceeding 28 days' (final column only of table 7 and all sections of table 8).

NHS CHC packages are funded for individuals aged 18 and over only, therefore activity and expenditure relating to individuals aged under 18 years would not normally be included in the Funded Care Return.

The exception to the above are transitional cases which may be agreed eligible for CHC before the individual turns 18. As with all newly eligible cases, this activity should be included in your funded care report based on the date a case is agreed eligible, not the date the funding commences.

## 22 How should we record cases which become eligible through the Local Resolution or Independent Review Process?

**ANSWER:** Local Resolution (and Independent Review) cases resulting in eligibility should be included in your CHC activity Tables 1 and 2, by making an adjustment to your snapshot and / or cumulative baseline as appropriate.

**Do not** include these cases in the 'Number agreed eligible in quarter' (column B) on Table 1 as these are **not** new referrals for Standard CHC as per the definition of a referral in section 5.1 p12 of the report guidance (the original referral having been received in a previous quarter and an assessment carried out, resulting in a not-eligible decision, thereby concluding the original referral process). These cases have not reached an eligibility decision via the normal route, and should therefore be excluded from the referral outcomes on Table 4, Number of DSTs carried out in quarter on Table 6 and Number of referrals concluded in 28 days (Table 7).

PUPoC requests which are agreed eligible through the local resolution process should be included in Tables 9 and 10. PUPoC requests which are agreed eligible through the Independent Review process should only be included in Table 10. (In both circumstances, PUPoCs do not need to be added to Tables 1 and 2, nor any adjustment made to the baseline).