

NURSING ASSESSMENTS

A nursing assessment must be completed by a Registered Nurse.

It considers 16 aspects of patient care, which enables the Registered Nurse to form a professional opinion to ascertain whether 24 hour residential care, or nursing care, is required.

What is the difference between residential and nursing care?

Residential

- In the residential care setting, all care is delivered by carers with no nursing qualifications. Residential care homes cater for people who can no longer manage/be managed in independent accommodation, and provide full board and personal care. Some homes provide specialist services in dementia, learning disability, mental health, or disabled younger adults.
- Residents with identified nursing needs can remain in residential care, but only, if these needs can be met by the District Nurse. For example, grade 3 pressure damage to a heel, which requires alternate day dressings, where the dressing remains clean and intact between visits. Or, a long-term catheter which requires renewing every 12 weeks. These are predictable interventions.

Nursing

- In the nursing home setting, it has been identified that a Registered Nurse is required to deliver certain aspects of care, which cannot be met by the District Nurse. The Registered Nurse is also available 24 hours per day to advise, supervise and monitor the care delivered by unqualified carers. Some nursing homes also provide the same specialist services previously mentioned.
- For a patient to be assessed as requiring nursing care, there are usually a high number of nursing needs (intensity), or there is unpredictability around one or more aspects of care. For example, grade 3 pressure damage to the sacrum of a doubly incontinent patient, (which will need redressing at unpredictable times, due to soiling). Or a catheter which blocks at unpredictable times, (requiring flushing), or which the patient self-removes, (requiring re-catheterisation prior to the standard 12 weeks).