

Virtual Wards- ensuring they work well for people with learning disabilities and autistic people

Valuing People Alliance project for the Health and Wellbeing Alliance

What are Virtual Wards?



- Sometimes called Hospital at home
- People get the healthcare they need at home instead of in hospital

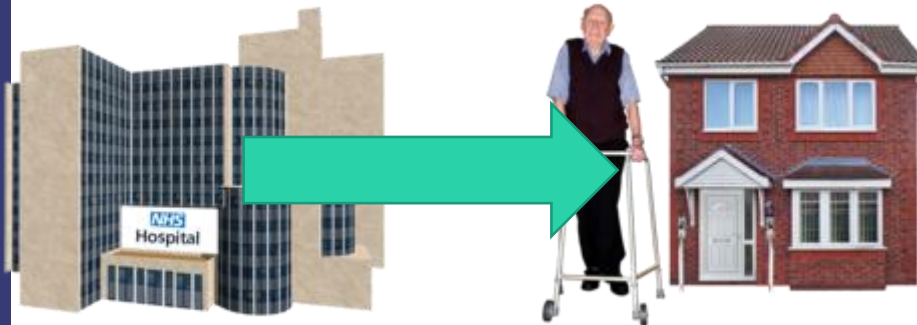


How do virtual wards work?

- Health staff check to see if getting healthcare at home is right for the patient
- They will have a plan that says how they will be cared for at home
- When the patient is well the health staff will stop seeing them



When might someone have treatment in a virtual ward?



- They are for people who are very unwell, or people who might get more sick in hospital

- People might get treated at home to stop them going into hospital

OR

- They might get treated at home after going into hospital



What might happen with a virtual ward?



- The person gets care from different types of doctors and nurses
- This might be having blood tests
- Or taking blood pressure
- Or having medication



What might happen with a virtual ward?



- They might use technology to check how you are doing

- Each day they have a video call

- or a home visit to check how they are

(this is like a doctor doing a ward round in a hospital)



Why is the NHS using virtual wards?



- Some people feel happier and get better quicker at home
- It can also help make space for more people who have to be in hospital
- They have mostly been used for people with lung infections
- And older people who might get very ill easily



Making sure
people
benefit



- People with learning disabilities or autistic people often die younger than other people





The patient is more at ease

Making sure people benefit



- What should healthcare staff do so people with learning disabilities and autistic people get the right care in a “virtual ward”?
- What kinds of changes or “reasonable adjustments” could help make sure people get the most out of their virtual ward?

