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What is it?

“Intermediate care” services are provided to people, usually older people, after they have left hospital or when they are at risk of being sent to hospital. Intermediate Care is a programme of care provided for a limited period of time to assist a person to maintain or regain the ability to live independently. Intermediate Care services provide a link between hospitals and people’s homes, and between different areas of the health and care and support system, such as community services, hospitals, GPs and care and support.

Intermediate Care Services can be provided in your own home, in a care home setting and in community hospital settings. Wiltshire Council is working closely with the Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group to develop intermediate care services that help people to live as independently as possible.

Intermediate Care services are usually provided for short periods of time often no more than six weeks. Intermediate care services are always free for up to six weeks but may be charged for if customers receive these services for longer periods.

Who will be offered Intermediate care services?

Intermediate Care services are offered to people who are at risk of being admitted to hospital or need help to regain levels of independence after a period of ill health or social care need. The Council will provide Intermediate Care for people where the support will;

- Help people avoid going into hospital unnecessarily.
- Help people to be as independent as possible after a stay in hospital.
- Prevent people from having to move into a residential care home, until they really need to.

Will I need to pay?

Intermediate Care services will not be means tested and will be free to the customer usually for a period of up to six weeks. From time to time Intermediate Care services will be provided free of charge for a period extending beyond six weeks if additional support is very likely to prevent a customer developing the needs as described above.

Customers in receipt of Intermediate Care services for more than six weeks may be asked to contribute towards the care provided. More information on paying for care and how calculations are determined can be found [here](#).

What Intermediate Care services are available in Wiltshire?

Wiltshire Council is currently working with the Wiltshire CCG to develop a range of coordinated Integrated Care services. The following services are currently available

Urgent care at home

This service provides care and support for people in the event of an unplanned situation such as a carer needing urgent hospital care. This service will support people for up to seventy two hours and is available at any time, day or night. The support is provided to ensure you are safe at home while more comprehensive assessments are completed.

Bed based Intermediate Care services

Bed based services are provided in care homes and community hospitals to provide a period of support during which people are helped to develop the independence required to return home.

Intermediate Care at home

These services are made up of a combination of social care support and health therapies and may include help for people to live independently and more specialist services such as physios or occupational therapy.

Discharge to Assess Beds

These beds are used when customers do not need to be in hospital but are not yet ready to go home. They allow people to recover after a period of support so that a comprehensive assessment can be completed and longer term decisions about care and support can be made.