



Health Care Assessments and Plans Policy

Version number:	Version 1	Document owner:	HND Children's Care Ltd.
Version Date: Review Date:	January 2026 January 2027	Document ID number:	3.7 Health Care Assessments and Plans Policy
Version expiry:	January 2027	Document classification:	Final
Version status:	Live document		

Regulations and Standards:

The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015:

- Regulation 10 - Health & Wellbeing of children standard.
- Regulation 23 - Medicines.

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1. Health Care Assessments

Each child should have a health care assessment soon after being placed and then at specified intervals, as set out below.

The purpose of health care assessments is to promote children's physical and mental health and to inform the individual's health care plan and ensure that the placement meets the child's holistic health needs.

Health care assessments must be conducted by a suitably qualified medical practitioner, who should provide the social worker with a written report.

The first assessment must be conducted before the child's first placement, or, if not reasonably practicable, before the child's first-looking after review - unless one has



been conducted in the previous 3 months.

For children aged over five years, further assessments should be at least annually. Health care assessments must be conducted more frequently where the child's health needs dictate.

The social worker is normally responsible for ensuring that health care assessments are undertaken, but this responsibility may be undertaken by the HND Children's Care Ltd home. Additionally, if it is noticed, or evident that a child is outstanding a health care assessment, it is the responsibility of the HND Children's Care Ltd homes manager to encourage this process and to make suitable arrangements.

In order for the assessment to be conducted, it will be necessary to ensure the consents section of the child's care plan has been completed and signed by the parent or a person with Parental Responsibility.

2. Health Care Plans:

Each child should have a health care plan, setting out the healthcare needs for the individual and how they will be promoted, ensuring that the child's holistic health needs are met.

The initial health care plan should be in place within 7 days of admission to HND Children's Care Ltd. This plan should then be updated after each health care assessment or as circumstances change. Health plans should ideally be reviewed monthly or if and when required, i.e., after any significant changes to health. Children should, is appropriate, be involved in the process and contribute to the plans.

The matters that should be considered in drawing up the health care plan are as follows:

- Whether there are any specific health care needs
- and how the home will meet them.
- If it is agreed that paracetamol or other painkillers can be used to provide relief for headaches, menstrual or other pain; also, whether there are any restrictions.
- On the use of non-prescribed medicines, home remedies or use of first aid.
- The involvement of the child's parents or significant others in health issues during the placement.
- Any specific medical or other health interventions which may be required, including whether it is necessary for any Invasive procedures and how they will be undertaken.
- The extent to which the child is able to retain or administer medication or requires support to do so.
- Whether it is necessary for any immunisations to be carried out.
- Any specific treatment or therapeutic interventions, strategies or remedial programs required.



- Any necessary preventative measures to be adopted.
 - Whether the child is allowed to smoke, and any measures agreed to reduce the behaviour.
 - Whether there are any illegal or other activities including self-harming which it is known or suspected the child is engaged in which may be harmful to the child's health, and interventions / strategies to be adopted in reducing or preventing the behaviour.
 - Whether the placement will contribute to any other health-related assessments.
- Whether the home will contribute to any health monitoring.

3. Designated Keyworker:

One of the key responsibilities of the child's keyworker will be for promoting his / her health and educational achievement, liaising with key professionals, including the nurse specialist, the child's GP and dental practitioner.

The keyworker will also ensure that up to date with information is kept on the child in relation to his / her health needs, development, illnesses, operations, immunisations, allergies, medications, administered, dates of appointments with GP's and specialist health services.

The keyworker must also ensure the child is registered with a GP and other health care professionals.

Also see '[Keyworker Guidance Policy](#)'.

End.