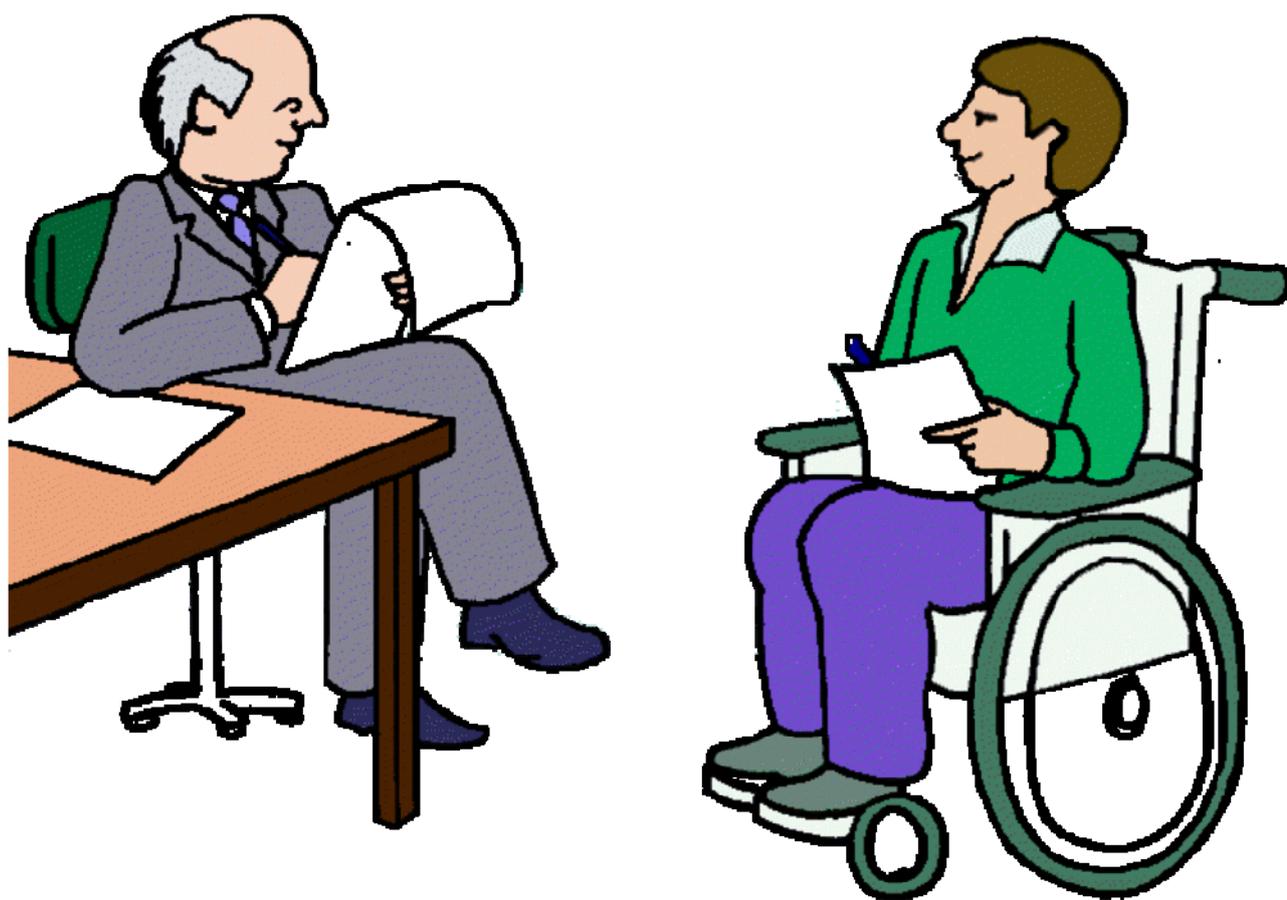


Personal Care at Home

Tell us what you think about our ideas



Easy Read version of Personal Care at Home:
Consultation on Proposals for Regulations and Guidance

What is in this booklet



1. About this leaflet

Page

1



2. Who will get free personal care at home?

6



3. How to give councils money to pay for personal care

23



4. Assessment for free personal care

28



5. What the words mean

33



Where to send your answers

35



1. About this leaflet

This EasyRead leaflet was written by the Department of Health.



We try to make sure people in England get the help and services they need to stay healthy.



This leaflet asks you about the government's ideas for free **personal care**.

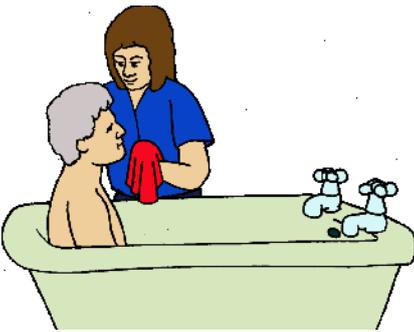
Personal care means help with things like:



- eating or drinking



- going to the toilet



- having a wash, bath or shower



- getting dressed



- taking care of your teeth



This help might be someone doing these things for you



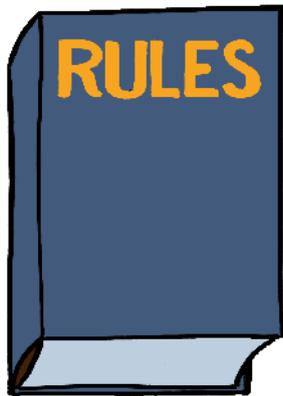
or someone reminding you to do these things for yourself.

| October 2010 | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

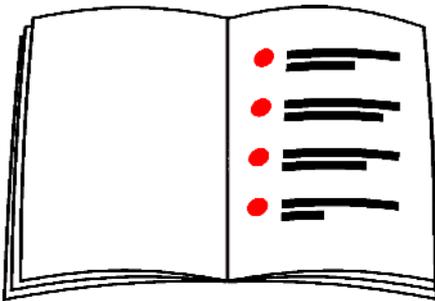
From October 2010 some people with the **highest needs** who are living at home will get free personal care.



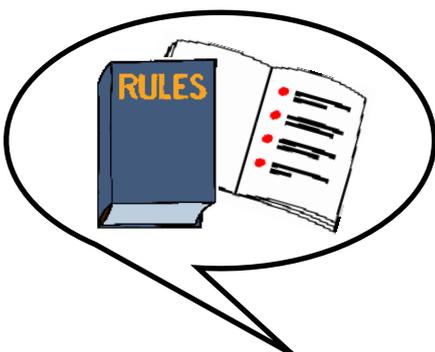
Highest needs means people who need a lot of support. Later in this leaflet we talk about what this might mean and how councils decide who has the highest needs.



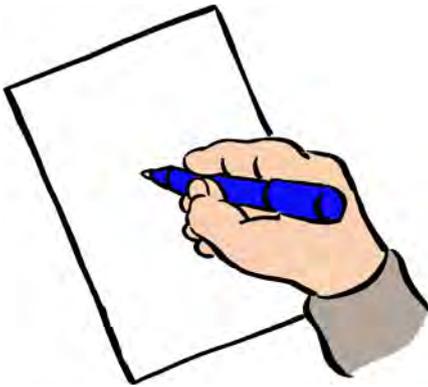
There will be **rules** about how local councils decide who gets free personal care. These are the **regulations**.



There will also be **advice** about how to make the rules work. This is the **guidance**.



We will talk more about the rules and advice in the next part of this leaflet.



We will tell you about each idea and then ask you a question. Please think about the questions and write your answers on the answers booklet that came with this leaflet.

| February 2010 | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

Please send us your answers before the 23rd February.

The address is on the last page of this leaflet.



You can find the more detailed version of this consultation at :

www.tinyurl.com/careconsultation

2. Who will get free personal care at home?



We know good personal care can help people stay in their own home for longer and be as independent as possible.



At the moment, the rules say some people with the highest needs have to pay for personal care if they need it for more than 6 weeks.



We want to do things differently so that some people with the highest needs get free personal care for longer.

Our idea is to give people a lot of support for about 6 weeks to try to:



- help them become more independent



- find out if there is any equipment or changes to their home or other support that will help them to live independently at home.

This is sometimes called **reablement**.



After this we will look at the person's needs again.



We might find this extra support for a short time has helped the person to be more independent and able to live in their own home.



If the person still has very high needs they may be able to get free personal care at home.



Some people with high care needs might get free personal care without lots of support for a short time.



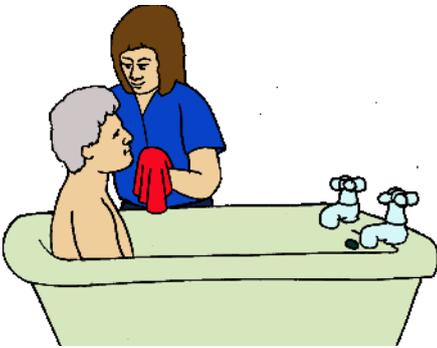
We are asking people how councils should decide who has the **highest needs**.

At the moment this is people whose needs councils call **critical**. There is more information about this in Part 4 of this leaflet.

People with the highest needs may also need a lot of help with everyday things like:



- going to the toilet



- bathing



- dressing or undressing



- eating and drinking



- controlling when and where they go to the toilet



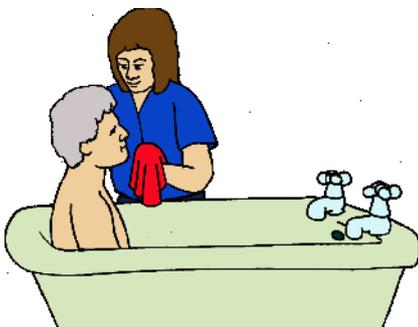
- not being able to walk or get around easily



- taking or checking their medication

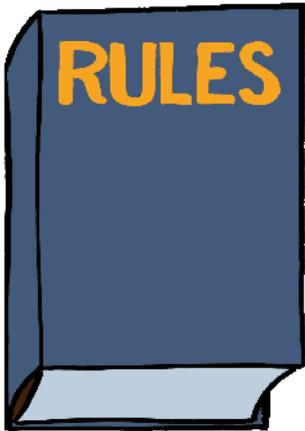


- keeping themselves safe and taking care of their mental health



These changes to personal care are just for people living in their own homes as we feel it is important to support them to stay at home for as long as possible.

What we think the rules should say about who gets free personal care at home



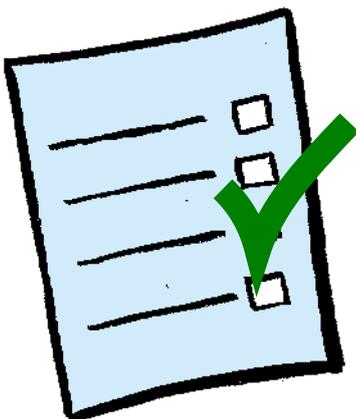
The rules must be very clear about who can and who cannot get free personal care at home and should say:



- the rules about free personal care will not change for people living in most care homes or when a family carer is supported to care for a disabled child.



- that the free services must be for personal care to a person at home.



- which things **are** personal care.



- which things are **not** personal care.



- that councils can decide whether or not people who refuse a lot of support for a short time will be able to get free personal care.



- that people will not have to pay to have a lot of support for a short time.

4. Assessment for free personal care

The government has rules about:

- who can have social care services
- what kind of services they can have

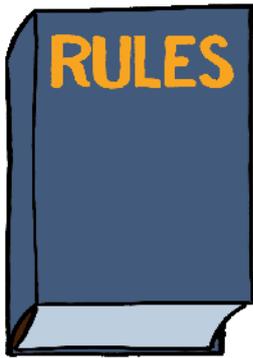
Councils look at people to make sure they meet these rules and support those who need the most help.

They look at the support people need to be independent and active. Things like:

- keeping healthy and safe

- how councils will decide who has the **highest needs**. There is more information about this in Part 4 of this leaflet.

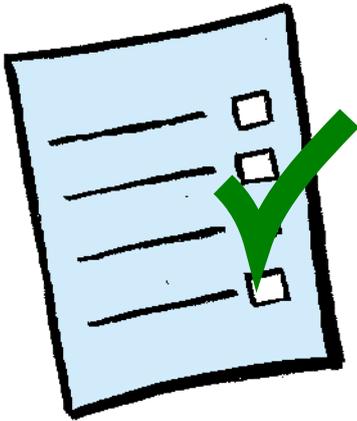
Question 1.



Do you think the rules cover everything they need to?

Please write your answer in the answers booklet.

What we think the advice should say about who gets free personal care at home



We think the advice about who can and who cannot get personal care at home should say:

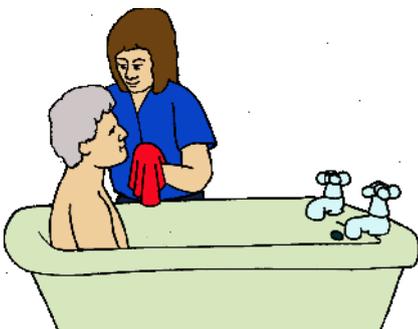
- which things **are** personal care



- which things are **not** personal care



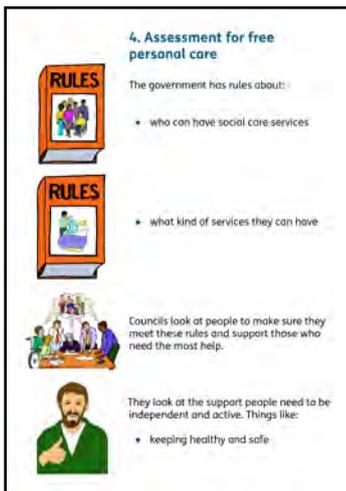
- what sort of help people can get if they have a lot of support for a short time



- that most people would need to have a lot of support for a short time before councils can work out if they can get free personal care at home



- Who might be able to get free personal care at home



- That **highest need** means people whose needs councils call **critical**. There is more information about this in Part 4 of this leaflet.



- How councils will work out what care people need. This is called **assessment**



- Each council will have to do these **assessments** in the same way so that things are fair across the country. We are going to work on a way to do this



- That people can get free personal care at home as a service from the council or as money to buy their own service using **direct payments** or a **personal budget**.



Councils will need to look at how to work out how much money people can get for help with personal care.



Councils will have to work out how much free personal care they can afford to give people.



Some people might need much more care than this and the law says councils have to make sure they get the support they need.

This might mean they have to go into a care home.



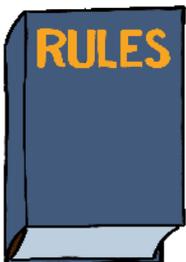
Question 2.

Have we got the right mix of rules about what councils have to do and advice about how to do these things?



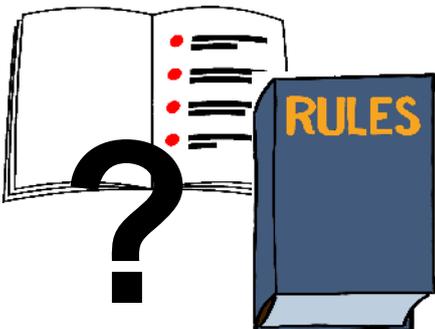
Question 3.

Is there anything you think should be in the advice instead of in the rules?



Question 4.

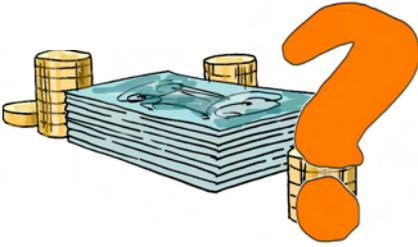
Is there anything that should be in the rules instead of the advice?



Question 5.

Have we missed anything out from the rules or advice?

How much will personal care cost?



We need to work out how much money local councils will need to pay for free personal care, or give people as direct Payments, or individual budgets to buy their own services.

There is a choice of 3 ways to do this:

1. To agree a set amount of money by working out what it costs to give personal care each week to most people with the highest needs.



This would be easy for councils to work out and simple to explain to people.

2. To agree the most it can cost and the least it can cost to give personal care each week.



This could give councils more control over how they spend their money.

This would be more difficult for councils to work out and harder to explain to people.



3. For councils to work out what it will cost to give each person the care they need each week.



This would give councils the most control over how they spend their money but might be difficult for them to work out and cost more for them to do.



With each one of these choices, councils will still have to make sure that anyone who needs much more care than this still has the support they need.



1
2
3

Question 6.

Which of the 3 ideas do you like best?

Question 7.

Do you want to say anything else about working out how much money councils will need to pay to give people free personal care?

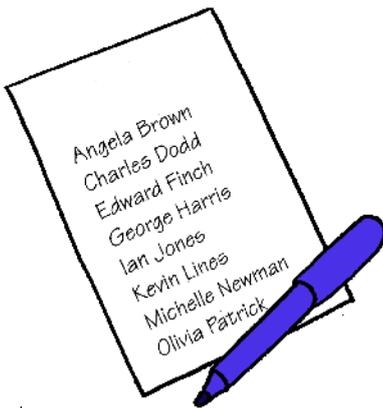


Getting ready for the changes

| October 2010 | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

If the government agrees the new rules, councils will need to make sure they are ready for the changes in October 2010.

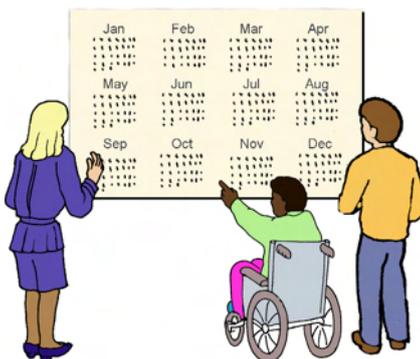
They will need to:



- Find out which people they already know about who might need extra support for a short time to see if they can get free personal care at home



- Find out the care needs of other people in their area who might need extra support for a short time or be able to get free personal care at home



- Decide when and how to look at the needs of people who ask for extra support or free personal care



- Try out a way for all councils to do **assessments** in the same way



- Give us information about the number of people who get free personal care at home. We will need to agree the best ways to do this.



Question 8.

What do you think about the things councils need to do to get ready for the changes?

3. How to give councils money to pay for personal care



Local councils will need money to pay for personal care for people with the highest needs.

Councils will have less money coming in and will need to spend more money because:



- some people with the highest needs will no longer be paying the council for their personal care



- some people with the highest needs who have been paying other services for their care will be able to get free personal care from the council

October 2010

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

From October 2010 the government will make sure there is money for this in the money that it gives to councils.



The new rules are for all adults with the highest needs but we think that most people who get free personal care will be older people living in their own homes.



There are 3 ways the government could share out the money for free personal care to local councils in 2010.

We will need to look at this again from 2011 onwards.



Each of these choices have a lot of difficult sums but the main ideas we are asking people to think about are:

Choice 1.

This idea works out:

- The number of older people in an area who might need support with personal care

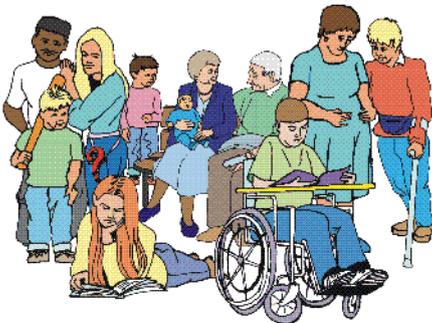




- other benefits or money they are getting from the government



- any extra money they might need because they live in a **poor area**



- how to share this money between older people and younger people.

Choice 2.



This idea looks at the same things as choice 1 but does not think about whether this is a **poor area**.

This is because everyone with the highest needs will have the same right to free personal care.



Councils will not have to think about how much money the person has and whether they could pay for it themselves.

Choice 3.



This idea looks at information the government already has about older people and their lives:



- where they live



- how much money they have



- what benefits or money they are getting from the government.



- what care they get



- who pays for this care.

This information says who gets personal care but does not say how many people have the highest needs.

Question 9.



Which of the 3 choices for working out how much money councils get to pay for social care do you like best?

Is there anything you want to say about the 3 ideas?

4. Assessment for free personal care



The government has rules about:

- who can have social care services



- what kind of services they can have



Councils look at people to make sure they meet these rules and support those who need the most help.



They look at the support people need to be independent and active. Things like:

- keeping healthy and safe



- deciding what you want to do with your life



- cooking, cleaning and looking after your money



- keeping in touch with friends and family



- being able to join in things that are happening in your community.

Councils then put people into one of these groups when they decide about giving social care services:



1. **Critical**

People with the highest support needs who need a great deal of help



2. **Substantial**

People who need quite a lot of help



3. **Moderate**

People who need some help but not very much



4. **Low**

People who need only a little help



People in group 1 (Critical) or group 2 (Substantial) might get services or have money to buy their own services using **direct payments** or a **personal budget**.



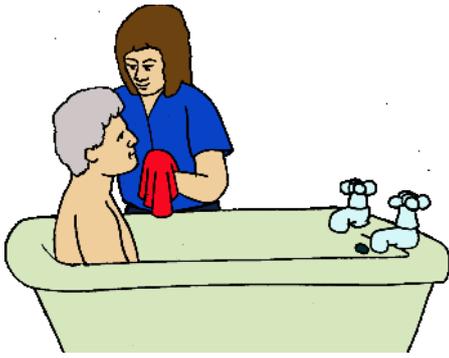
People in group 3 (Moderate) or group 4 (Low) might get information and advice about where to get help and support.



Some people will be offered a lot of support for a short time to help them become more independent and find out what help they need to live in their own homes.



After this, the council look at the person's needs again.



If the person still has very high needs and also needs help with other everyday things, they may be able to get free personal care at home.

5. What the words mean

| | |
|--|--|
| Assessment | How councils work out what care or support people need |
| Critical band | How councils describe people with the highest needs who need a lot of support |
| Deprived area | A place where there is poor housing and lots of people do not work or do not have much money |
| Direct payment or Personal Budget | Money instead of a service from the council. You use this to choose, plan and pay for the services you need |
| Guidance | Advice to help you do something |
| Personal care | Help with things like eating or drinking, going to the toilet, having a wash, bath or shower or getting dressed |
| Reablement | A lot of support for a short time to help you become more independent and find out what help you need to live in your own home |

Regulations

Rules – something you have to do

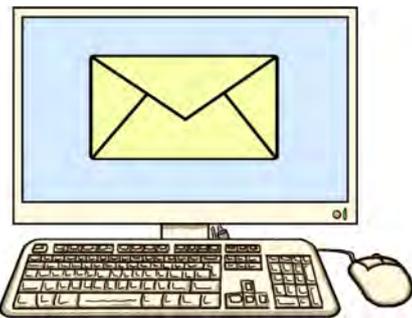
Social Care

Services that help you stay safe independent and active.

Where to send your answers



Please send us your answers before the 23rd February 2010.



You can email:

personalcareathome@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Or write to:

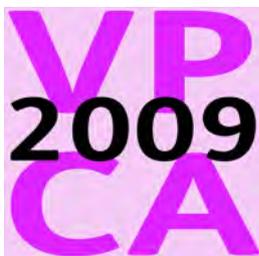
**The Personal Care at Home Team
Area 15
Wellington House
133 – 155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8UG**



Credits



This paper has been designed and produced for Department of Health by the EasyRead service at Inspired Services Publishing Ltd. Ref ISL357/09. December 2009.



Artwork is from the Valuing People Clipart collection and cannot be used anywhere else without written permission from Inspired Services.



To contact Inspired Services:



www.inspiredservices.org.uk