



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Criteria for Provision of Home Help Services

The following information is intended to help the applicant decide whether or not their needs can be met through the Home Help Service.

Eligibility:

1. The Home Help service is available to people 65 years of age or over.
2. Only in exceptional circumstances where all other avenues have been explored will clients under 65 years be considered.
3. All applicants (or a representative with their consent) must fill in the attached application form, indicating that they agree to undergo an assessment.

Objectives of the Home Help Service:

Applications must meet one or more of the following objectives:

- Reduce inappropriate admissions of older people to acute care or residential care
- Support older people to continue to live or return to live in their own community
- Support carers so that they may be able to continue to provide care for older people

Assessment:

In all cases Home Help services will be approved on the basis of a needs assessment. This assessment will evaluate how much help, if any, the applicant needs to carry out certain activities associated with daily living. The assessment will assist the HSE to determine if a service is required. Please note that even if the client has needs, the HSE may be unable to meet those needs.

Home Help will be allocated according to the identified care needs, to a maximum of 10 hours per week.

Domestic Duties:

Domestic duties are not a priority service within the HSE. Only household duties which are considered to be essential to a client's personal care needs will be considered in the assessment process.

Meals:

Local services should be availed of where possible, i.e. Meals on Wheels, local outlets that can deliver meals etc.

Offer of Service:

If the assessment indicates that the applicant has a level of need and that those needs are a priority, a service will be offered, depending on the level of HSE funding. The offer will specify the tasks and level of assistance that has been recommended to meet the applicant's needs.

To commence the approved service, the applicant must complete a Consent Form.

Review:

The Home Help service is subject to ongoing review by relevant professionals. The reviews will help to monitor care needs identified, to ensure that they continue to be met and that care at home remains appropriate.

A review may result in an increase, decrease or no change in the level and range of service/supports. Current service hours may also be rearranged to accommodate changing needs.

Please note that any incomplete, inaccurate or misleading information on either the application form or the assessment form may lead to the service being delayed, suspended or withdrawn.