**NOTES ON COMPLETION OF HEALTH CARE ADVICE FOR AN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE ASSESSMENT**

This guidance aims to assist Health professionals in the production of the health care advice required as a contribution towards a statutory assessment (SA) of a child or young person’s education, health and care needs or for the purpose of transferring a Statement to an Education, Health and Care Plan. The purpose of the assessment is to gain a holistic picture of the child/young person as a whole. However, the advice from professionals should be evidence based and remain within their area of expertise. The purpose of the Health care advice should be to identify health needs, outcomes and provision. Related educational and social care needs will be obtained separately by professionals with expertise in these areas.

The CCG **must** normally respond within a maximum of 6 weeks from the date of receiving the request for advice letter as specified in the SEND Code of Practice.

Using the template form enclosed, health professionals **must** provide advice to cover three critical elements as fully as possible:

**The child or young person’s health needs which relate to their special educational needs (SEN)**

Health advice **must** specify any health needs identified through assessment which relate to the child or young person’s SEN. Routine health care needs, such as dental checks are unlikely to be related.

The CCG may also choose to specify other health care needs which are not related to the child or young person’s SEN (for example a long term condition which might need management in an educational setting e.g. type 1 diabetes, anaphylaxis etc...).

Descriptions of health needs should specify the condition of the child or young person’s health rather than any developmental objectives or recommended provision, which should be reflected in the subsequent sections.

**Outcomes**

If the child, or young person is identified as having health needs that relate to the child or young person’s SEN, it should be noted that suitably qualified and relevant health professionals will be required to attend a Outcomes meeting (or a Transfer Review) as part of the statutory assessment. One purpose of this meeting will be to devise long term person centred outcomes. Any health care outcomes devised should then form part of the advice and recommendations for health care provision should be focussed on the child or young person achieving the agreed outcomes. In the event that the relevant health care professional is unable to attend the Outcomes meeting (or Transfer Review), the health professional’s advice will still need to identify suitable and relevant outcomes directly linked to recommended health care provision. Guidance regarding outcomes is separately attached.

**Any health provision reasonably required by the learning difficulties or disabilities which result in the child or young person having SEN**

The relevant clinician, such as a community paediatrician, should participate in the co-ordination and identification of recommendations for health care provision. The CCG **must** then ensure that there is sufficient oversight to provide the assurance that the health needs of children and young people with SEN are being met in line with their statutory responsibility.

* Provision should be detailed and specific and should normally be quantified, for example, in terms of the type of support and who will provide it.
* It should be clear how the provision will support achievement of the outcomes, including the health needs to be met and the outcomes to be achieved through provision met through a personal (health) budget.
* There should be clarity as to how the advice and information gathered has informed the provision specified. Recommendations for provision must be an evidence based process.
* Health care provision reasonably required may include specialist support and therapies, such as medical treatments and delivery of medications, occupational therapy and physiotherapy, mental health treatment and therapies, a range of nursing support, specialist equipment, wheelchairs and continence supplies. It should include highly specialist services needed by only a small number of children which are commissioned centrally by NHS England (for example, therapeutic provision for young offenders in the secure estate).
* Any other health care provision reasonably required by the child or young person which is not related to their learning difficulties or disabilities but which should sensibly be co-ordinated with other services.

Health provision which educates or trains a child or young person e.g. speech and language therapy, must be treated as special educational provision and separate guidance exists regarding educational advice and this should be referred to.

Where the child or young person has a school based Health Care Plan this must be included as part of the advice.

**Please make sure that your report is signed and dated**