

Hospital discharge – Bromley Healthcare Children's Occupational Therapy Process

This process applies to essential home equipment provision to support a child's safe discharge from hospital. It does not include minor or major adaptations.

Once the child is in the community, any further equipment needs (where the child is not receiving continuing care) should be referred to the London Borough of Bromley's occupational therapy service.

BHC occupational therapy role in supporting hospital discharge

- To provide essential short-term equipment, following assessment and recommendations from the hospital therapy team.
- A BHC occupational therapist may carry out an access visit if clinically appropriate. All training and education relating to the recommended equipment should be completed by the discharging hospital team.

Making a referral

- Referrals must be made by the hospital therapy team using the BHC hospital discharge referral form and submitted within a suitable timeframe.
- The referral must include:
 - Details of the assessment
 - Equipment required for discharge
 - The child's previous and current functional ability
- The discharging hospital is responsible for:
 - Completing any necessary training with parents/carers on how to use the equipment
 - Assessing or discussing the home environment with parents/carers before discharge

Inclusion criteria (all must apply)

- New equipment is needed to enable safe discharge and is not already available in the home.
- Equipment supports key daily living activities such as washing, toileting, sleeping, or transfers.
- There has been a change in the child's functional ability since admission (e.g. reduced ability to transfer).
- All equipment needs have been assessed in hospital and training has been completed and documented.
- Equipment is required for short-term use only (up to 4 weeks). If longer-term equipment is needed, this will be referred to the social care occupational therapy team.

Exclusion criteria

Referrals will not be accepted for:

- Equipment already needed prior to admission (e.g. a hoist used at school but not in the home)
- Adjustments to existing equipment used before admission (e.g. seating systems)
- Major adaptations (e.g. fixed ramps, grab rails, or permanent fixtures)
- Equipment to support access to upstairs areas (e.g. stair climbers)
- Equipment expected to be required for longer than 4 weeks (these cases should be referred to social care OT)
- Wheelchairs or wheelchair adjustments (these are managed by the discharging hospital or wheelchair services)

Equipment provided

- Only standard stock items from NRS that are available for same-day or next-day delivery can be provided, to meet discharge timescales.
- Temporary ramps may be provided if available as standard stock through NRS.
- Where environmental access is limited (e.g. no downstairs bathroom), families will be advised to support the child with downstairs living and bed-based self-care for up to 4 weeks.

Please ensure all referrals are made in good time. For short-notice discharges, the hospital team must liaise with BHC occupational therapy to confirm feasibility.