

Assistive Information

Clinical Lead and Training Department Newsletter

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Assistive Information in Care Settings: Legislative Requirements

In care settings, providing assistive information is crucial to ensure that individuals receive the support they need to live independently and with dignity. This article explores the types of assistive information required and the relevant legislation that governs its provision.

Types of Assistive Information

Assistive information encompasses a wide range of data and resources designed to support individuals with disabilities, restricted mobility, or other impairments. This includes:

1. **Medical Devices and Assistive Technology:** Products or systems that help individuals perform functions that might otherwise be difficult or impossible. Examples include wheelchairs, hearing aids, and communication aids.
2. **Daily Living Aids:** Items that assist with everyday activities, such as adapted kitchen utensils, bath seats, and mobility aids.
3. **Accessible Information:** Information provided in formats that are accessible to individuals with sensory impairments, such as braille, large print, or audio formats.



Key Legislation

Several pieces of legislation outline the requirements for providing assistive information in care settings:

1. **Care Act 2014:** This Act mandates that local authorities provide information and advice on care and support services available to individuals. It emphasizes the importance of promoting individual well-being and preventing needs for care and support. The Act also requires local authorities to ensure that information is accessible and tailored to the needs of individuals.
2. **Health and Social Care (Safety and Quality) Act 2015:** This Act requires the sharing of essential information across different care settings to ensure the safety and quality of care for service users. It emphasizes the need to respect confidentiality while sharing information.
3. **Accessible Information Standard (AIS):** All providers of NHS care or publicly-funded adult social care must meet the AIS, which ensures that individuals with disabilities or sensory impairments

Implementation in Care Settings

To comply with these legislative requirements, care providers must:

- **Assess Individual Needs:** Conduct thorough assessments to determine the specific assistive information needs of each individual.
- **Provide Accessible Formats:** Ensure that all information is available in accessible formats, such as braille, large print, or audio.
- **Use Appropriate Technology:** Implement assistive technologies that support individuals in their daily activities and enhance their quality of life.
- **Train Staff:** Educate staff on the importance of providing assistive information and how to use assistive technologies effectively.
- **Maintain Confidentiality:** Share information across care settings in a manner that respects the confidentiality and privacy of individuals.

By adhering to these guidelines and legislative requirements, care providers can ensure that individuals receive the support they need to live independently and with dignity.

receive information in formats they can understand and communication support if needed.

Further Reading

[GOV.UK - Assistive Technology: Definition and Safe Use](#)

[Legislation.gov.uk - Care Act 2014](#)

[Care Learning - Health and Social Care \(Safety and Quality\) Act 2015](#)

[Care Quality Commission - Accessible Information Standard](#)

Policies and Procedures relevant to this Newsletter

Policy & Procedure	Trust Care Ltd	FCSL	FHC
Assessable Information Standard (AIS)	CR63	CR63	CR63
Person-Centered Care and Support Planning	CP11	CP39	CP39
Care Communication and Information	QCN03	QC16	QC16

For any further information please contact the Training Department 01733 261233



