

Vital signs: the facts

There are 15 million people living with at least one long term health condition in England today, and £7 in every £10 spent on health and social care is spent on managing these conditions. As a group of patient charities, we know that whether someone is living with a long term condition, is recovering from a serious illness, or dealing with a life-changing diagnosis, good care improves lives and saves money. While a huge amount of excellent care is provided by many hard working staff, much of the system has yet to get to grips with supporting and enabling people to live as well as possible, as these facts from our report¹ illustrate.

From our unique position as leading charities we understand how important the NHS is to people living with long term conditions. Too often the state of care is inconsistent and not enough people are getting the care they are entitled to. With long term conditions driving so much hospital and GP activity, they are a significant cause of the cost pressures the health and care system is facing. Many of these pressures could be prevented. The system can no longer put off getting the basics right.



70%

Long term conditions account for 70% of hospital bed days.



One in eight

people over 35 have undiagnosed COPD.



80% of amputations

resulting from diabetes could be avoided with access to the right care and support.



70%

of people seeking help for asthma had no written action plan.



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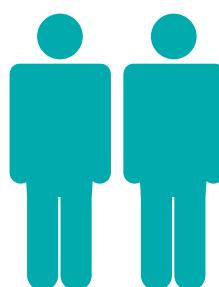
There is a great deal of work to do to roll out the tried and tested solutions that will change the lives of people living with long term conditions for the better. The Richmond Group of Charities has the expertise and commitment to help deliver the necessary changes. Over the next five years the real test of the Government and NHS leaders at all levels of

the system will be whether the gaps we highlight become a thing of the past and how local services are held to account. 15 million people with long term conditions are experiencing day by day the difficulties we describe here. That is the political challenge.

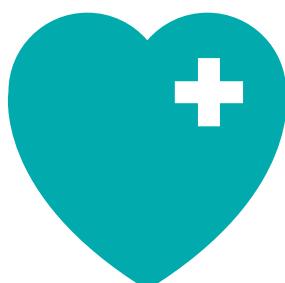


ONLY 48%

of people with schizophrenia had been given information about their medication and only 39% felt it was provided in a way they could understand.



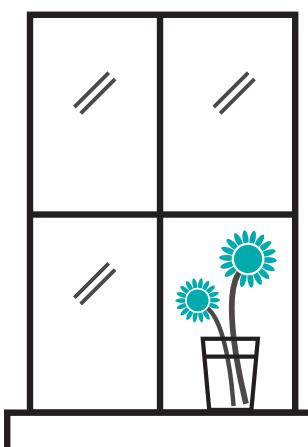
Only two in ten stroke survivors report receiving information, advice and support on coping with the emotional aspects of stroke.



One in ten relatives of heart attack survivors gave up work to provide care.

Each day,
100

cancer patients who said they wanted to die at home, in fact die in hospital.



The Richmond Group of Charities

