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BED BLOCKING IN HOSPITALS IS A VIOLATION OF OLDER PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

National charity Counsel and Care is not surprised to hear that so called 'bed blocking' is increasingly occurring in hospitals all over the UK as reported by Doctors.net.uk today (5 January 2011). The serious lapses in joined up care and cuts to social services mean that older people are not receiving the quality and standards of care that they are entitled to.

Caroline Bernard, Acting Chief Executive, Counsel and Care expressed concern about the report's findings: "This report highlights the importance of protecting social care in the current climate. Older people that are unable to access care at home due to tightening eligibility criteria cannot be left languishing in hospital when they could be brought home and given the support to get back to independence.

"As it reviews the funding of social care this year, the Commission on Funding of Care and Support must consider the key role of joined up health and social care services that can aid smooth transfers of care out of hospital, back into the community."

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Copies of **Hospital care in England: what you need to know before, during and after your stay** can be downloaded from:

<http://www.counselandcare.org.uk/category/advice/pdf/hospital-care-in-england>

2. Copies of **Telecare and telehealth: what it is and how to get it** can be downloaded from:

<http://www.counselandcare.org.uk/category/advice/pdf/telecare-and-telehealth-what-it-is-and-how-to-get-it-guide-6>

3. Counsel and Care is a national charity working with older people, their families and carers to get the best care and support. Advice on issues affecting older people and carers can be obtained by calling 0845 300 7585 or emailing advice@counselandcare.org.uk
4. Counsel and Care's Advice Service opening hours are 10am-4pm Monday-Friday.
5. More information about Counsel and Care can be obtained from www.counselandcare.org.uk