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COUNSEL AND CARE WELCOMES CARE QUALITY COMMISSION'S CALL FOR BETTER COMMUNITY CARE FOR STROKE SURVIVORS

National charity Counsel and Care welcomes the report from the Care Quality Commission that many stroke survivors are not receiving the right levels of support when they leave hospital.

Stroke affects people of all ages, however when an older person who already has care needs has a stroke, they need advice and information particular to their situation, as well the right levels of care and support when they return home. Recent news stories about hospital discharge show that it is important that support is available in the community to aid rehabilitation and to regain independence as far as possible. Technology also has a part to play in assisting stroke survivors' rehabilitation.

The recent launch of Counsel and Care's guides **Hospital care in England: what you need to know before, during and after your stay** and **Telecare and Telehealth** underlines the importance of patients' rights, their needs at home, and how to get the best possible outcomes from a stay in hospital.

Caroline Bernard, Acting Chief Executive, Counsel and Care, said: "This report again highlights the importance of high quality, independent advice and information for stroke survivors. When leaving hospital it is crucial that care

plans are in place, with health and social care agencies working closer together to ensure that stroke survivors are able to access care assessments, therapy, and the full range of services that can help them to recover from the ordeal of a stroke.”

“If the government is pursuing an ideal of personalisation in health and social care, it will be important that hospital discharge is planned from the moment the person enters hospital, to ensure a smooth transfer from hospital to home, with the right support in place.”

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- 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>
- 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>
- The full list of the **Counsel and Care guides available to download** from:
<http://www.counselandcare.org.uk/advice-and-information>
- 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. Counsel and Care’s Advice Service opening hours are 10am-4pm Monday-Friday.
- More information about Counsel and Care can be obtained from www.counselandcare.org.uk