

All District Health Boards

Calculating the distance between residential care facilities

Information regarding the '10 km' rule related to charging for premium room services in aged residential care, in effect from 1 July 2014.

Introduction

Under the rules which came into effect on 1 July 2014, a prospective resident can be required to pay for premium room services in order to be admitted to an aged residential care facility.

These three conditions must be met before a provider can require a resident to pay for premium room services as a condition of admission to the facility.

- The provider has no standard rooms available; **and**
- The occupancy level at the facility of the type of room required (rest home, hospital or dementia) is 90% or more; **and**
- The provider has identified a facility less than 10km away that has a standard room available. **The attached spreadsheet allows you to calculate that distance.**

All of these conditions must be met before a provider can require a resident to pay for premium room services as a condition of admission to the facility.

If the provider cannot meet all three conditions, they must admit the prospective resident to a premium room and not charge extra for that room.

Calculating the distance between residential care facilities

The spreadsheet provided here can be used to calculate the distances between facilities. It contains the names and addresses of all aged residential care facilities in NZ. When you choose a rest home, private hospital, or dementia care home in a given DHB, the calculator will list all the other facilities with the same type of care within a 10 km radius.

This spreadsheet is not completely authoritative, and there are other calculators available, e.g. your DHB may have its own list of distances between facilities, and the Eldernet NZ website also has a 10 km calculator.

Using the calculator

Open the attached spreadsheet and follow the instructions at the top of the first sheet. The calculator is based on straight line distances between facilities, so you may find that some distances travelled by road may be longer.

If you find major discrepancies or errors in the calculator, please advise your DHB Health of Older People Portfolio Manager so that the spreadsheet can be corrected. Your DHB works with the residential care providers in the district to ensure that the calculators are correct, and to verify the 90% occupancy levels.

Further information

If there are standard rooms available at another residential care facility, within 10 kms of your first-choice facility, you can choose to take the standard room at the other facility, or pay for a premium room at your preferred facility.

The fact sheet and flow chart on this webpage will answer other questions you may have, such as the definition of a premium room; moving from a premium room to a standard room; and what happens if you are receiving premium room services and are suddenly faced with financial hardship.

In all cases, your DHB Health of Older People team are there to advise you. You can also talk things through with advisors at Seniorline, free phone 0800 725 463.