

**Appendix 6** Care home discharge information letter

Dear Colleague,

[Insert Patients Name] has been discharged from [insert ward & hospital site] on [date] which is affected by viral gastroenteritis.

\*Discharging area to tick relevant statement on discharge from healthcare setting

	They have been affected and are now in excess of 48 hours symptom free
	They are still presenting with symptoms (may only be discharged to a nursing home or residential home that is known to be affected by an outbreak of vomiting and/or diarrhoea)*
	They are not yet 48 hours symptom free (may only be discharged to a nursing home or residential home that is known to be affected by an outbreak of vomiting and/or diarrhoea)*
	They have been in a closed area but as yet have not been symptomatic **

\*Transfer to other community-based institutions (e.g. prisons) or other hospitals should be delayed until the patient has been asymptomatic for at least 48 hours. Urgent transfers to other hospitals will need an individual risk assessment.

\*\*Those who have been exposed but are asymptomatic may be discharged only on the advice of the local health protection organisation and IPCT.

**ACTIONS**

Care-givers must wash their hands with soap and water after each direct contact with a patient/the patient's environment.

Provide facilities for patients to wash their hands prior to eating and after using the toilet

Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn e.g. gloves and apron when assisting patients with toileting, or when handling soiled linen. Staff must wash their hands after removing PPE.

Stool samples must be obtained for residents with diarrhoea

Symptomatic residents/those who are not 48 hours asymptomatic must be cared for in their own rooms with dedicated toileting facilities.

Symptomatic staff should refrain from work and stool specimens provided, returning to work only when they have been asymptomatic for 48 hours or more.

If other residents/staff develop symptoms in a short period of time, notify the UK Health Security Agency on 0344 225 3560 and select option 2.

Further advice regarding management/infection control procedures can be found online by visiting [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and searching for Norovirus guidelines.