

# Criteria Led Discharge - Staff Information

**Criteria Led Discharge can be described as “a process where the parameters for a patient’s discharge are clearly defined”.**

Criteria Led Discharge (CLD) is one approach to improve communication within the team regarding discharge planning. It is a tool to ensure the entire team, including the patient, is aware of what needs to happen before a patient can leave the hospital. As one of the important aspects in the coordination of the inpatient journey, CLD streamlines the transfer of care from the beginning of their inpatient journey. The approach involves the multidisciplinary team and ensures the discharge process is not solely reliant on the final review by the responsible or on-call medical teams. CLD plays an important role in ensuring patients are appropriately and safely discharged 7 days a week.

## **The Criteria:**

1. Should be agreed between the senior medical decision maker (usually a Consultant, Registrar or SAS Doctor) leading the care and the multidisciplinary team
2. May be standardised for particular procedures or conditions, but must always be adapted to provide person-centred discharge
3. Should allow patients to be actively involved in the process

**Once the criteria have been met, the patient can be discharged by a competent registered healthcare professional.**

## **The evidence demonstrates that CLD results in:**

- Reduced length of stay
- Reduced discharge delays
- No increase in complications, readmissions or contact with primary care
- No reduction in patient satisfaction
- Increase in staff satisfaction
- Increased weekend discharges, resulting in a more even spread of discharges throughout the week

# Criteria Led Discharge - Frequently Asked Questions

Following the release of Criteria Led Discharge in PPM+, you may find answers to some of your questions below.

## **Question 1: Are Nurse Led and Criteria Led Discharge the same thing?**

Nurse-led and Criteria Led Discharge are different. In nurse-led discharge, nurses lead the whole discharge process, potentially using clinical criteria.

In Criteria Led Discharge, a range of registered health professionals (not just Nurses) may undertake the discharge process using the criteria agreed by a senior clinical decision maker (e.g Consultant, Registrar or SAS Doctor).

## **Question 2: Is Criteria Led Discharge an advanced practice role?**

Criteria Led Discharge is not routinely the preserve of advanced roles. If this was the case, the NHS would have introduced advanced practice roles dedicated specifically to patient discharge, and it has not.

Some elements of the discharge process, such as the prescription of medication, are considered part of advanced practice.

## **Question 3: Don't Nurses do this already?**

Nurses facilitate the discharge of medically stable patients deemed 'fit for discharge'. They coordinate referrals to allied health professionals and discharge teams. They often trigger referrals for social care assessments from – or even before – the point of medical stability.

Ambiguity arises if the discharge process is already predominantly nurse-led, but not yet formalised as such through agreed protocols, procedures or policies. Some nurses explain that the level of trust placed in them varies according to how well they know the medical team on duty.

Criteria Led Discharge formalises the process and reduces ambiguity and uncertainty for all professionals involved in the process

## **Question 4: Is Criteria Led discharge is suitable for all patients?**

It is not necessarily appropriate for all patients to follow a Criteria Led Discharge pathway. A thorough understanding of the issues that might arise in a particular setting is essential before introducing Criteria Led Discharge.

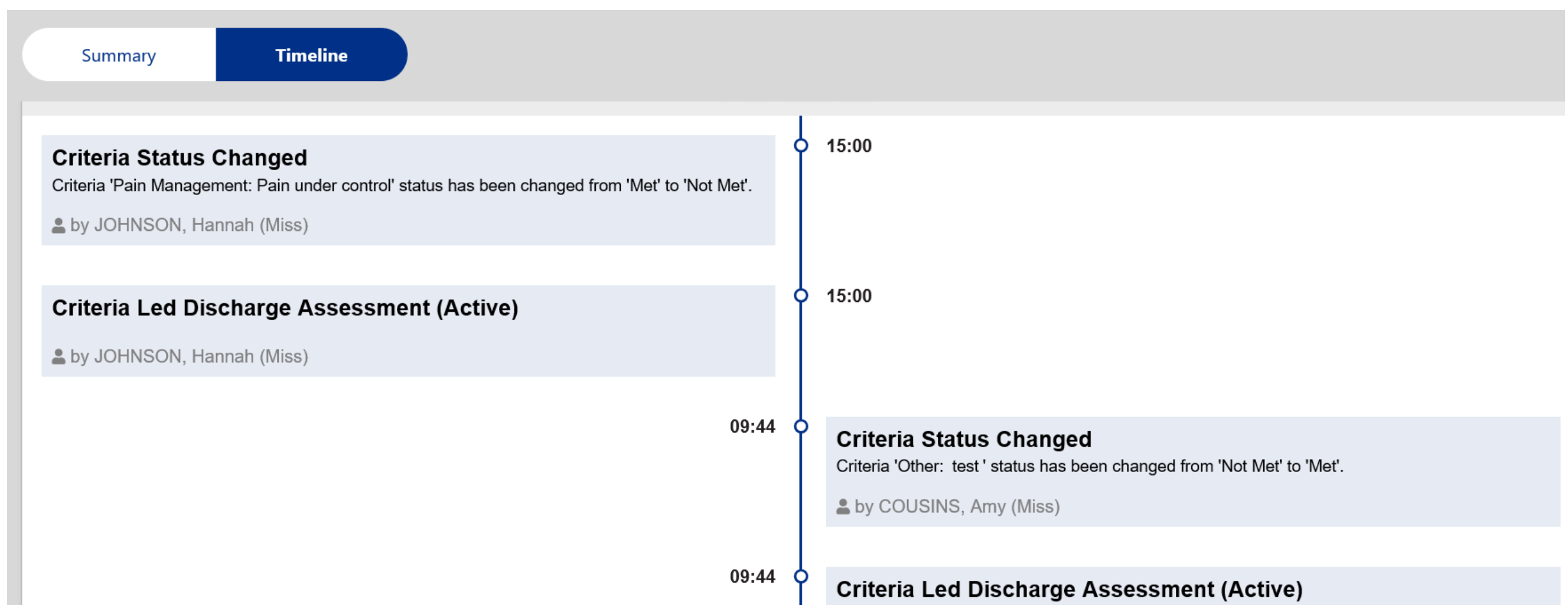
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## Question 5: Who can complete the Criteria Led Discharge eForm?

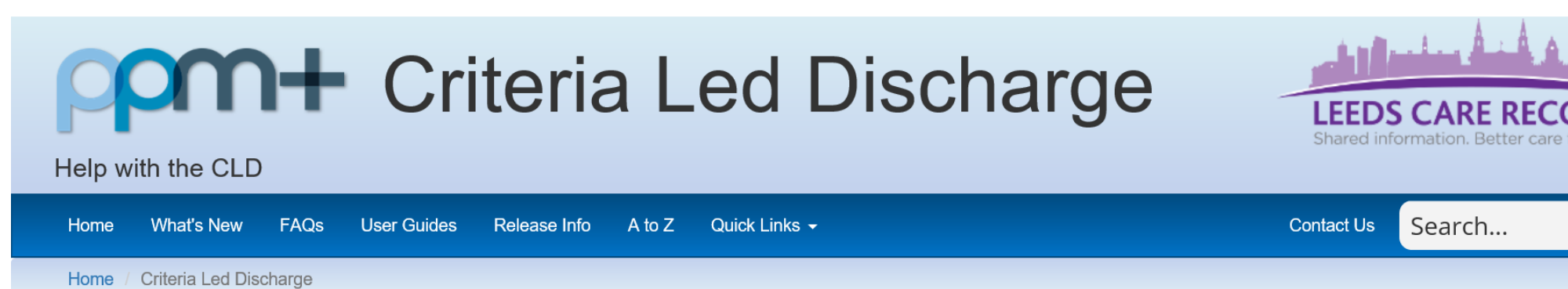
Any registered healthcare professional can complete the form, but the criteria should be set by a senior clinical decision maker (e.g Consultant, Registrar or SAS Doctor).

Assessment of whether the patient has met the criteria can be made by any registered healthcare professional.

All changes made to the Criteria Led Discharge eForm are visible via the timeline view. (As seen below).



## Please visit the PPM+ Helpsite where you will find a useful guide & video for Criteria Led Discharge



[Click here for the Criteria Led Discharge Guide](#)

[Click here for the Criteria Led Discharge Poster](#)

See below for the Criteria Led Discharge video.



Link to Criteria Led Discharge section on the PPM+ Helpsite:

<https://www.ppmsupport.leedsth.nhs.uk/CLD.html>