



CHRIS CASE STUDY

Specialist knowledge & intervention
– Nicola Hare, Dorset



AT A GLANCE

CHALLENGES

- Fully reliant on his wife as a carer
- Catheter causing pain and discomfort
- Risk of contractures
- Excessive oral secretions

AMSC INPUT

- Assisted with application for CHC funding
- Assessed bed position and provided specialist cushions
- Changed type of catheter and bladder medication

"I'd say the AMSC provides a specialist, holistic one stop shop which supports Chris and I physically, mentally and emotionally. I feel able to contact her at any time and I feel that we're completely supported by her. She's always there in the background for the next stage. I'm so lucky that we live here and were able to have the support of an AMSC."

– Sue, Chris's wife and carer

SITUATION

Chris is 79 and was diagnosed in 1988. His wife, Sue, is his full time carer, assisting Chris with all aspects of daily living including cognitive impairment, incontinence, spasticity, feeding tube regime, and hoist transfers.

BACKGROUND

- Chris's wife has been providing twenty-four-hour care with no extra support.
- Chris's catheter was regularly becoming blocked, causing additional pain and discomfort.
- The position Chris was lying in in bed was putting him at risk of developing permanent tightening of muscles (contractures).
- Excessive oral secretions were becoming more difficult to clear.

AMSC INPUT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The AMSC understood that carer burden was a risk for Chris's wife Sue. They discussed options and completed a Continuing Health Care (CHC) checklist together. Chris was granted CHC funding and Sue has the extra support of once-a-day care and twice-a-day on two days a week.
- To resolve problems with his catheter, the AMSC worked closely with the district nursing team to change his type of catheter and his medication.
- The AMSC worked with the CHC occupational therapist to assess Chris's positioning in bed. The AMSC also provided specialist bed positioning aids, which improves his comfort.
- Chris's oral secretions have been improved after a medication review from his GP. The AMSC sourced a portable suction device, along with training for Sue, which also improved oral secretions.

OUTCOMES

- Chris has had no unplanned hospital admissions due to MS in the two years he's been under the care of an AMSC.
- The carer burden of Chris's wife Sue has significantly reduced.