

The process of applying for local authority housing has moved exclusively online. They will no longer accept paper applications. This includes those that are applying for the first time or those that are requesting a change in housing status because of changes to their personal circumstances, including applications on medical grounds.

**The attached guidance summary:**

- All housing applications need to be completed online. Including new applications on medical grounds or those needing to move because their medical condition.  
[www.lewishamhomesearch.org.uk](http://www.lewishamhomesearch.org.uk)
- **Patients do not need to approach their GP to supply any form of supporting documentation or medical evidence at this stage**
- ‘Letters of support’ or other supporting documentation will not be considered during the assessment process
- The patient can send all of the information and evidence that they already have to support the application and they can self-report on all medical considerations during the online process itself
- Once submitted, the housing team will make the assessment. If medical evidence is needed then the housing team will contact the practice directly on behalf of the patient
- The practice will submit the information directly to the housing team so that they can complete the assessment.

**Considerations:**

- The housing team will only approach the practice with the consent of the patient
- Delays in the housing team receiving the information from practices will prolong the final decision and may leave patients in inappropriate housing or homeless

