



who is the carer?

dialogue:

Group of friends having a chat over an afternoon cup of tea/coffee.

- Jill** Phew, I'm so tired, been working continuously since 8.30 – it's so nice to have an afternoon cuppa and a chat!
- Sue** Actually, I can hardly keep my eyes open at the moment – was attending to Bill all night long and a strong espresso is just not going to do it to keep me going... I still have to tackle all the washing of the soiled linen, then ironing, preparing dinner and then the washing up... and the list just goes on...
- Nita** Well, I'm afraid I have to run along soon to pick up the kids from school – lucky, they have both taken so well to the drama club, I get to have an extra 45mins on Friday.
- Sue** Frank was also keen on drama but I'm afraid, I have to rely on him to bring a few things from the supermarket as soon as he finishes school and give Bill company so I can attend to other chores and for once in a blue moon have a cup of tea with you girls – how long has it been – nine months?
- Mary** Must be – the important thing is I'm off to sunny Spain for two weeks where I can completely forget – dressing strips, antiseptics, moving and handling guides!
- Nita** Oh, no you won't!
- Mary** (laughs) – That's right! But the only dressing I'll be worried about is whether I put on my black number or the red one, before handling my glass of antiseptic sangria and making all my best moves at the nightclub! Who knows, maybe I'll retire there when I get a chance to dip into the pension pot... I do deserve a bit of pampering and 'me time' after all the caring I have done for others... Oh, what's the matter Sue?
- Sue** Oh, I just remembered when you mentioned moving and handling, whether the phone is still charged up in case Frank needs me to help Bill to the toilet.
- Jill** Oh, I had to do that so many times today with a new boy, Afram – who has just joined, turning 20 and waving his NVQ level 2 certificate and a Manual Handling Certificate around – however, talk about being thrown in the deep end – both of us found it quite challenging to get this 6ft 2" bloke in and out of a creaky wheelchair. Just as well, I have gone part time – with my old 35 hour job, I would have been having a cuppa with my chiropractor instead.
- Sue** Bill has lost quite a bit of weight but I still have an aching back – I don't have the time or money to go for any treatment.

who is the carer? questions

1. Who is the carer?

2. Afram has just joined Jill's team at the age of 20. What is the minimum age requirement for a carer?

3. Jill mentions a 35 hr week. What are the maximum statutory hours for a carer?

4. Mary is going on a two week holiday. What is the minimum paid holiday entitlement for a carer?

5. Mary also mentioned a pension pot for her retirement as a result of her paid caring duties. What sort of pension arrangements might a carer have?

6. Afram has an NVQ level 2 and a Manual Handling Certificate to start his job. In general, what are the training requirements before a carer can start their caring responsibilities?

7. What career opportunities exist for carers?
