**NHS healthcare professional letter template for ECO4 Flex:**

 [Dr/ GP name]

 [Dr/ GP title]

 [NHS trust/ board/ GP address ]

 [Postcode]

 [Date: XX/XX/XXXX]

[Patient’s name]

[Patient’s address]

[Patient’s postcode]

To: [local authority name],

Having carefully considered the patient’s medical health conditions, I hereby refer [patient’s name] for the ECO4 Flexibility (ECO4 Flex) policy, as set out by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) via:

[Please cross one box only]

* **Households identified as vulnerable according to NICE Guidance
(NG6: Recommendation 2):** Route 2
As outlined in the ECO4 Flex Administrative Guidance[[1]](#footnote-2), Route 2 refers to a person living at the premises who is considered to be vulnerable to the cold-
1. under the guidance entitled “Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes” published by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence on 5th March 2015 (NICE Guideline NG6); and
2. for a reason other than their low income, (see recommendation 2 of the NICE Guidance NG6).

The full list of NICE proxies can be found online[[2]](#footnote-3).

* **Person suffering from severe or long-term ill-health:** Route 3
As outlined in the ECO4 Flex Administrative Guidance, Route 3 refers to ECO4 legislated conditions listed below in the table.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Route 2** | **Route 3** |
| * Household suffering from cardiovascular conditions or,
 | * A cardiovascular condition,
 |
| * Household suffering from respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma) or,
 | * A respiratory disease,
 |
| * Household suffering from mental health conditions or,
 | * Limited mobility,
 |
| * Household suffering disabilities or,
 | * Immunosuppression
 |
| * Household with an older person (65 and older) or,
 |  |
| * Part of household with young children (from new‑born to school age) or
 |  |
| * Household with a pregnant woman
 |  |

**Households identified as vulnerable according to NICE Guidance (NG6: Recommendation 2):**

I can confirm that the named patient falls under the vulnerable category as listed under Route 2 in the [NICE guidance: NG6, Recommendation 2](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6/chapter/1-Recommendations#recommendation-2-ensure-there-is-a-singlepointofcontact-health-and-housing-referral-service-for), and suffers from one of the listed health conditions, with the exception of the low-income proxy and may benefit from assistance under ECO4 Flex scheme which aims to assist low income and vulnerable households.

\* **All** referrals must be sent from a valid NHS email address.

Name ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Person suffering from severe or long-term ill-health:**

I can confirm that the named patient suffers from one of the four health conditions listed above under Route 3 and that their health condition is adversely affected by living in a cold home.

\* **All** referrals must be sent from a valid NHS email address.

Name­­­­­ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. [ECO4 Guidance: Local Authority Administration | Ofgem](https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/eco4-guidance-local-authority-administration) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [1 Recommendations | Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes | Guidance | NICE](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6/chapter/1-Recommendations) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)