

Patient choice in neurodevelopmental assessment for Autism and ADHD

What does patient choice mean?

Patient choice is at the heart of the NHS. There are a range of choices that patients should expect to be offered in the NHS services they use.

Do I have the right to choose who provides my child's neurodevelopmental assessment?

Yes. If your child's referral has been deemed to be clinically appropriate for a neurodevelopmental assessment for Autism and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), you have the right to choose the provider of this assessment.

Which providers can I choose from?

NHS England tell us that eligible providers need to have a current contract with a commissioner in England for early years or school-age neurodevelopmental assessments. As there is no national electronic list of these providers, Calderdale has some known providers that we are currently aware of and are able to transfer to. If you wish, you can do your own research on other available providers and come back to us if you want to discuss things further.

Please see your letter for up to date information about locally known assessment providers who meet the NHS requirements.

Tell us your choice by emailing firstpointofcontact@openmindscamhs.org.uk or calling 01422 300 001

We can't progress your child's referral until you contact the neurodevelopmental choice navigator or First Point of Contact (FPoC) team to tell us which provider you'd like to choose.

What if we change our mind? Can we decide a different provider at a later stage?

You can only have one assessment and this will be with your chosen provider. But you can select another provider at any point before your child has their initial assessment by informing the neurodevelopmental choice navigator via the First Point of Contact team.

Where can I find more information about patient choice?

More information about patient choice can be found at:
[nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/about-the-nhs/your-choices-in-the-nhs](https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/about-the-nhs/your-choices-in-the-nhs)

Choice in mental health services can found at:
[england.nhs.uk/publication/choice-in-mental-health-care](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/choice-in-mental-health-care)

What happens when we choose a provider?

Once you confirm your chosen provider by telephone or email, we will make a referral to them (if they are already known to us as a provider of neurodevelopmental assessments with a current NHS contract), or some checks will need to be carried out first.

It is important to note that your child will not be placed on the waiting list for an assessment unless you tell the First Point of Contact Team what you would like to happen next.

Can you advise me who to choose?

We can discuss your options, what different providers offer and what you need to consider in making your decision about your child's provider.

However, we are not able to advise you on which provider you should choose.

What if I choose a provider from this leaflet?

When you tell us your decision, we will securely transfer the referral to the assessment provider and you will receive a letter to confirm this.

What if I want to choose a different provider to the ones on this leaflet?

When you tell us your decision, if your provider is not known to us, checks will need to be carried out to find out if they have a current contract with a commissioner in England for school-age neurodevelopmental assessments.

The provider may also need to be contacted to establish a secure referral process.

We can't say how long these checks will take because it depends how quickly providers reply.

What else do I need to know?

Your healthcare professionals need to be proactive in facilitating choice. This means explaining your rights to choice in mental health (including neurodiversity), circumstances where the legal rights do not apply, and what types of services you and your child can access.

They also need to discuss with you other important considerations, such as:

- travelling to and from a provider
- finding out about the quality of their service
- whether their service would complement any existing health or care services your child is receiving
- who would provide further care or treatment (such as therapeutic support or medication) if this is recommended following the assessment

This is important as it will vary depending on, for example, whether you choose an NHS or private provider, and whether your GP is willing to prescribe medication, if this is recommended.

You should also be aware that some providers assess for autism and ADHD separately, and some carry out a combined assessment. If the provider you choose carries out separate assessments, you will need to decide which you would like your child to be assessed for first.

If you feel you have not been offered choice or do not have access to information to make a choice then you may want to contact NHS England and NHS Improvement who can provide advice about choice and may be able to resolve individual concerns. This could involve directing you to the appropriate place to make your concerns known or could involve NHS England and NHS Improvement directly engaging with relevant parties.

Members of the public, patients, and their representatives should contact the Customer Contact Centre at [england.nhs.uk/contact-us](https://www.england.nhs.uk/contact-us)

If you are unhappy with the decision from the CCG, NHS England and NHS Improvement, you have the right to complain to the independent Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman. The Ombudsman is the final stage in the complaints system [ombudsman.org.uk](https://www.ombudsman.org.uk)

Contact us

01422 300 001

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