

Right to Choose in Rotherham – Neurodevelopment Assessment

The national NHS Choice Framework gives all NHS patients in England the legal ‘right to choose’ (RTC) the service that provides their healthcare. The Right to Choose applies when a patient is referred for a first consultant led outpatient appointment if they have to wait longer than the maximum waiting times (usually 18 weeks).

The Right to Choose is different to a private referral made by a GP or by the patient, where care and treatment are privately funded and outside of the NHS. The most recent NHS Right to Choose Guidance can be found here [NHS England » Patient choice guidance](#).

Children and Young People

The Right to Choose an alternative provider is available for Children and Young People (CYP) in Rotherham at the point it has been decided that a full neurodevelopmental assessment (to determine diagnosis or not) is the appropriate clinical route.

GPs are not able to refer Children and Young People for Neurodevelopmental Assessments in Rotherham. This is carried out by schools, usually by the School Special Educational Needs Coordinator. Also, GPs cannot make referrals for CYP Neurodevelopment Assessment to Providers under right to choose. However, they provide a central role in guiding carers and families to understand the pathway processes and in making an informed decision to initiate a patient’s Right to Choose.

The child or young person will need to be referred to the RDaSH CAMHS Neurodevelopmental pathway by their school

Unless the child or young person is electively home educated – please contact the RDaSH CAMHS Neurodevelopment pathway to discuss the referral pathway.

Once it has been determined that a Neurodevelopment Assessment is clinically appropriate, the person would automatically be referred for their first outpatient appointment to the commissioned service provider in Rotherham for Neurodevelopment Assessments (which is RDaSH), unless they decide to choose a Provider of Choice.

Choosing a provider

The young person/ parent(s)/ family identify and contact their provider of choice. NHS South Yorkshire ICB is not able to provide recommendations about which provider you should choose. Under the legislation for Right to Choose a Provider of Choice must have:

- An NHS contract to deliver this type of assessment with any Integrated Care Board or NHS England.
- a service and team led by a consultant or a mental health professional
- a CQC-regulated service. This may be confirmed by searching the full list of services CQC regulate at: <https://www.cqc.org.uk>

The guidance from ADHD charities/organisations below may be helpful in deciding on a Provider of Choice. However, please note that NHS South Yorkshire ICB cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information on these websites.

- [Right to Choose - ADHD UK](#)
- www.addiss.co.uk

There is also a guide to help young people/ parent(s)/ family consider the options and make a choice. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-nhs-choice-framework/the-nhs-choice-framework-what-choices-are-available-to-me-in-the-nhs#getting-more-information-to-help-you-choose...>

You can also talk to the Rotherham Parent Carers Forum about Right to Choose in Rotherham.

There is also lots of information about support available on the [Rotherham SEND Local Offer](#)

What to consider

To make an informed choice you might want to ask your Provider of Choice about:

- What the current waiting times with their Provider of Choice.
- Whether or not they are able to assess for all aspects of Neurodevelopment including ADHD, ASD (or both).
- How they will keep their GP informed about their care and treatment including medication.
- What the options are for post-diagnostic care including medication and shared care arrangements

The Provider of Choice, with consent from the young person/ parent(s)/family will confirm with the relevant NHS south Yorkshire area that they have been selected as a provider of choice and will request your care to be transferred from RDaSH to them.

Only one organisation/Provider can be responsible for the care of the person – this means the children and young people cannot be on more than one Provider's waiting list.

Care after diagnosis

If your child or young person is diagnosed with ADHD and medication is recommended the Provider of Choice may expect your GP to enter a shared care protocol for ongoing prescribing and reviewing of this medication. This is a decision for each GP to make about whether to agree a shared care protocol with a Provider of Choice or not.

In Rotherham GPs do not need to and cannot make a referral for a child or young person to any Provider of Choice for a Neurodevelopment Assessment.

Adults

Referral process

To go through the adult right to choose pathway, you will first need to speak to a GP at your practice about why you think you may have ADHD or autism. It might be helpful to give your GP observations and information in writing. The GP will decide if it is clinically appropriate for you to be assessed for ADHD or Autism (or both) and can talk to you about the Right to Choose option.

This would also be a good opportunity to discuss the benefits and disadvantages of choosing a private provider through the NHS. Right to choose may not be the most appropriate solution for some people, depending on type of need or circumstance. It is important to make an informed decision.

Should you decide to proceed, the GP would then complete the referral to your Provider of Choice.

Choosing a Provider

NHS South Yorkshire ICB is not able to provide recommendations about which provider you should choose with your GP under an NHS Choice pathway. We do not hold a list of private providers across the country. However, there are restrictions on who can provide your care, which you should be considered. For a provider to provide assessment and care under right to choose they must have:

- a commissioning contract with any Integrated Care Board or NHS England for the required service
- a service and team led by a consultant or a mental health professional
- a CQC-regulated service. This may be confirmed by searching the full list of services CQC regulate at: <https://www.cqc.org.uk>

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