

## Local NHS ADHD Assessment Pathway (Children)

If you are considering an ADHD assessment for your child, we would strongly advise that the first step is to speak with your child's teacher or the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo). Children in Cornwall with suspected ADHD or neurodiversity are initially assessed through a neurodevelopmental profiling process.

- **Neurodevelopment Profiling:** An early, non-diagnostic assessment used to understand a child's strengths and needs without requiring a formal diagnosis.
- **How it works:** Completed with families by a trained professional (usually school staff), it looks across multiple areas of development and provides practical strategies to support the child at home and in education right away.
- **Trial of support:** These strategies are put in place and reviewed over at least 12 weeks. If the child is managing well, no further assessment may be needed.
- **Next steps if needed:** If difficulties continue, the school can request a multi-disciplinary review, which may lead to specialist advice, additional support, or referral for a diagnostic assessment (such as ADHD or autism).

## Right to Choose ADHD Assessments Pathway (Children)

At Trescobeas Surgery, we understand that families may be concerned about waiting times for ADHD assessments and may wish to explore alternative options through the NHS "Right to Choose" pathway. We aim to support patient choice while also working within local NHS (Cornwall and Isles of Scilly) guidance and safe prescribing frameworks.

## Right to Choose Referrals (Children)

Patients have the right to request a referral to an approved provider for an ADHD assessment under the NHS Right to Choose scheme.

We will consider referrals to providers that are approved by NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board (ICB) and **listed on our practice website**.

If you choose a Right to Choose provider, you cannot remain on the local NHS waiting list at the same time. Accepting this referral will usually mean you are removed from the Cornwall NHS service waiting list.

## If your child is assessed by a Right to Choose provider

- The Cornwall NHS specialist service may not automatically accept the diagnosis.
- In cases where care needs to be transferred to NHS services, further assessment may be required before the NHS team takes over care, which could delay treatment.

## Prescribing and Shared Care (children)

- For patients diagnosed with ADHD through local NHS services, medication is often managed through a structured shared care agreement between the specialist and GP, supported by local Cornwall prescribing guidance.
- Trescobeas Surgery **does not enter into shared care prescribing arrangements with Right to Choose providers.** This reflects guidance from the British Medical Association (BMA), Local Medical Committees (LMCs), and the need to work within local ICB prescribing policies and governance frameworks.

## What this means for patients

- If medication is recommended following a Right to Choose assessment, the provider will need to prescribe and monitor treatment on an ongoing basis.
- If the provider does not offer long-term prescribing, this will mean medication is not accessible for your child through the Right to Choose pathway.
- Transfer of prescribing to NHS services is not guaranteed and will depend on local specialist review and acceptance (see above).

## Important considerations

Before requesting a referral under the right to choose pathway we strongly recommend that you:

- Confirm that the provider offers ongoing follow-up and prescribing
- Understand that you will leave the Cornwall NHS waiting list if you proceed
- Be aware that diagnoses and prescribing may not transfer to NHS services

For further information about the local NHS child ADHD assessment pathway, please visit:

[www.cornwallft.nhs.uk/camhs-adhd-service](http://www.cornwallft.nhs.uk/camhs-adhd-service)