



Community Paediatrics Neurodevelopmental Conditions (NDC) Pathway - What you can expect from your child's assessment

Who are we?

Community Paediatrics is a team of child development specialists who see children and young people and their families in the community. We provide specialist expertise in the assessment and diagnosis of children with complex neurodevelopmental disorders.

We focus on the entire child and their strengths and weaknesses to provide a developmental profile.

Please note that we are a diagnostic service only. Your child will be offered a follow up session to discuss the outcome of the assessment and to put you in touch with local services, or to think about ways to share information about your child's needs with other people. We do not offer on-going support or intervention, unless your child requires medication.

Who do we see?

We see children and young people with complex neurodevelopmental presentations. We investigate and diagnose children with a range of difficulties including Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), tic disorders and delayed global development.

Pre-assessment information

There are some forms that will need to be completed by you and school prior to assessment. It is important that we collect this information as it helps us decide on the assessment package that best meets your child's needs.



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Assessment

The assessment offered will be comprehensive and will consider all neurodevelopmental presentations. To complete the assessment, we will need to gather information in a variety of ways which may include:

- Meetings with the young person and relevant family members
- Use of standardised assessment methods
- Play based observations
- Information gathering from other professionals including teaching staff

What will happen at the first appointment?

You and your child will meet with one or more members of the team to explore the current challenges that you are facing. Each meeting will take up to one hour. It can help to bring along your child's favourite toy or game to help them feel more comfortable throughout the assessment process.

Your child may also receive a physical examination including height and weight measurements.

If you feel it would be helpful to speak with a clinician without your child present, please inform the clinician of this. We cannot provide supervision of your child in these circumstances, so you will also need to bring along a relative or friend to supervise them.

What will happen afterwards?

You will be offered a feedback appointment after the assessment.

All families will receive a comprehensive written report. A copy of your report will be sent to your child's GP. You may share your child's report with other professionals should you wish to do so.

Not every child receives a diagnosis, and, in these instances, we will do our best to sign post you to local support services.

We do not routinely offer a further appointment following the full report, unless your child needs to go onto medication; otherwise we will usually discharge your child from the service at this point.



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What you can do whilst you await your child's assessment

There are plenty of services in Swindon that can provide advice and assistance whilst you wait for your child's assessment.

- **Visit the Swindon Local Offer Website**

<https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/home/>

- **Attend a peer support group**

COAST is a support and information group run by parents for families of children with autism - suspected or diagnosed. They meet on a regular basis in Swindon and invite speakers to talk about key issues affecting children with autism and ADHD and engage in facilitated discussions. They provide an opportunity to meet others in the same situation and offer both practical and emotional support. Please contact 07565 090039 (Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm) for further information.

Not attending, cancelling and changing appointments

If you cannot make an appointment, please ensure that you phone us on 01793 604080 (Monday to Friday: 8.30am to 4.30pm)

Due to the nature of the assessments and high demand on the service, we must implement a strict policy when people do not attend appointments, cancel appointments at late notice or repeatedly cancel appointments:

- If you do not attend (DNA) an appointment and fail to inform us, you may be discharged back to your GP. Any cancellation with less than 48 hours' notice will be classed as a DNA (unless there are exceptional circumstances)
- We run set clinic hours and are generally unable to offer alternative appointments
- If an appointment is cancelled more than 48 hours in advance, we will endeavour to offer an alternative appointment. This will affect the length of time your child will spend in the pathway



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Queries

If you have any questions about your appointment, please get in touch.

Email: gwh.communitypaeds@nhs.net

Telephone: 01793 604080 (Monday to Friday: 8.00am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm)

Concerns and complaints

We always aim to provide you with a high-quality service. However, if you have any concerns, complaints or comments about your experience of our service, please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS).

You can contact the PALS Team by email or telephone or visit them on the ground floor at the Great Western Hospital, Swindon at the address below.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)
Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Great Western Hospital
Marlborough Road
Swindon
SN3 6BB

Email: gwh.pals@nhs.net

Tel: 01793 604031

This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net

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