



Autism & ADHD Assessment Pathway Changes

Information for Parents and Carers

Why is the pathway changing?

The number of children referred for autism and ADHD assessment has increased significantly in recent years. This reflects a greater awareness and improved understanding, so more children who may benefit from assessment are being identified.

As a result, waiting times have increased. We are improving how the service works so more children can be seen sooner, while maintaining safe, high-quality care.

What is changing?

We are introducing a revised way of assessing children and young people.

All referrals will still be reviewed by senior clinicians, but children may now be seen by different professionals depending on their needs.

This includes trained clinicians who specialise in child development, as well as doctors.

Who will assess my child?

Your child will be seen by a clinician with the right skills and experience for their needs. This could be a doctor or another professional who specialises in working with children and young people.

All clinicians work as part of the same team and follow the same clinical standards.

Will my child still see a doctor?

Some children will be seen by a doctor, and some will be seen by another trained clinician, depending on the outcome of the initial assessment and complexity of their needs.

Doctors remain involved in the pathway. They review referrals, support clinical decisions, and see children where medical input is needed.

What does this mean for my child?

- Your child will still be assessed if they meet the criteria



- They will be seen by the **most appropriate clinician**
- The pathway aims to **reduce delays where possible**
- Children with more complex needs will continue to receive **specialist care**

How are decisions made about my child?

All referrals are reviewed by experienced clinicians.

Decisions are based on available information, including input from parents, schools and other professionals, as well as questionnaires and developmental history.

Will this affect the quality of the assessment?

No.

All assessments follow national clinical guidance and the same clinical standards.

The pathway includes senior clinical review, and doctors remain involved where needed. This helps ensure assessments are safe and consistent.

What happens next?

- Your referral will be reviewed through the new pathway
- We will contact you when your child progresses to the next stage

Support while waiting

You can get support from:

- Your child's school or SENCO
- Your GP
- Local support groups

Please contact us if you need guidance.

Contact us

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[Community Paediatrics - Bromley Healthcare](#)