Adult Clinical Neuropsychology Service – Information & Guidelines for Referrers

Psychology Department
Community & Therapy Services
Across Site

This leaflet has been designed to give you important information about your condition / procedure, and to answer some common queries that you may have.
Primary Service Aims

The aims are:

• To provide a highly specialised Clinical Neuropsychology Service to adults and their families and carers in a variety of settings across Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust including outpatient, community, in-patient and residential care settings. Indirect work also takes place through collaborative working and the supervision of other professionals in a multidisciplinary setting

• To provide highly specialist neuropsychological assessment and therapy within NLAG, and to offer advice and consultation on the patient’s psychological care to non psychologist colleagues and to non-professional carers

• To supervise and support the psychological therapy, neuropsychological assessment and rehabilitation provided by junior colleagues within the psychology consultancy and non-psychology colleagues

• To promote good practice in psychological care and work toward the optimum management of neuropsychological needs across the network. This includes the provision of teaching, training and support to NLAG staff in aspects of the management of neuropsychological needs

• To provide teaching and training as part of the HYMS doctoral programmes in Medicine and Clinical Psychology

• Quality assurance activities include research, audit, policy review and service development

Delivery

Clinical input is predominantly in the neuropsychological assessment, management and rehabilitation of patients with the following conditions:

• Acquired Brain Injury
• Invasive tumours
• Post surgery neurological conditions
• Degenerative neurological conditions
• Metabolic and endocrine disorders
• Intracerebral infections
• Toxic disorders

We regret that we are not resourced to work with stroke patients. We provide a service for working age adults, but it would be possible to make exceptions for 16 -18 year olds in certain cases. If you need to make a referral for a 16 -18 year old please discuss the appropriateness of the referral with the psychologist.

Referrals

The main categories of referral questions to neuropsychology are as follows:

• Aiding in diagnosis or differential diagnosis
• Determining localization of function and dysfunction
• Establish a baseline of function from which to assess future changes
• Assessing treatment effects, including following neurosurgical procedures
• Aiding in discharge planning
• Assessing capacity and competence in specific areas (e.g. return to work)
• Documentation of neuropsychological strengths and weaknesses to aid in the planning of rehabilitation efforts
• Identification of malingering, hysterical or factitious disorders
• Providing education, referrals and support to patients

Examples of unsuitable referrals
We do not see people who are more appropriate for other services or who are unlikely to benefit from intervention.
This includes people with the following difficulties:
• Psycho-social stress pre-existing or unrelated to their neurological condition (e.g. pre-existing marital problems)
• Patients whose presentation is predominantly psychiatric or social
• At immediate risk of suicide / serious harm to self / others
• In crisis (which may well prove to be short lived, e.g. recent trauma, relationship crisis)
• Severe antisocial / violent / criminal behaviour
• Primary or current drug or alcohol abuse

Alternative services
You may wish to consider the following for patients who are not appropriate for our service:
• Refer back to their General Practitioner who can arrange for them to be seen by their own Counsellor or Primary Care Mental Health Nurse. Alternatively, the GP may refer to Psychiatry, Mental Health Psychology or to the local Community Mental Health Team
• Patients in crisis can directly access a Crisis Team via the Accident and Emergency Department in their local hospital
• Patients with mild to moderate mental health needs in the in the Grimsby area can self refer to Open Minds (Tel: 01472 625100)
• Some voluntary / independent agencies provide services for Psychological difficulties, e.g. CRUISE (bereavement), RELATE (relationship difficulties), and MIND
• Headway provide excellent support and information for patients and their families following acquired brain injury (Helpline: 0808 800 2244 / Website: www.headway.org.uk)

Referral Guidelines
The Neuropsychology Service is provided across North and North East Lincolnshire by:
• Consultant Clinical Psychologist in Neuropsychology (1 wte)
• Clinical Psychologist in Health and Neuropsychology (0.5 wte)
Referrals should be made in writing to:

Adult Clinical Neuropsychology,
Psychology Consultancy,
Diana Princess of Wales Hospital,
Scartho Road,
Grimsby,
N.E. Lincolnshire,
DN33 2BA
Telephone: 01472 875287 Internal Ext: 7945
Fax: 01472 875545

Referrals can be accepted from Medical Consultants within the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and external Neurologists and Neurosurgeons with patients from this area. Due to a lack of resources referrals cannot be accepted from General Practitioners and non-Consultant medical staff.

Where possible, please use our referral form which can be found on the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Foundation Trust intranet.

Response times and waiting lists

Every effort will be made to see urgent patients as soon as possible taking into account their clinical need. However, non-urgent referrals will be placed on the waiting list and every effort will be made to see them within a clinically meaningful time. To assist in prioritising referrals, please state on letters whether a referral is urgent or routine.

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Concerns and Queries

If you have any concerns / queries about any of the services offered by the Trust, in the first instance, please speak to the person providing your care.

For Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital
Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01472) 875403 or at the PALS office which is situated near the main entrance.

For Scunthorpe General Hospital
Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01724) 290132 or at the PALS office which is situated on C Floor.
Alternatively you can email: nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net

Confidentiality

Information on NHS patients is collected in a variety of ways and for a variety of reasons (e.g. providing care and treatment, managing and planning the NHS, training and educating staff, research etc.).

Everyone working for the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential. Information will only ever be shared with people who have a genuine need for it (e.g. your GP or other professionals from whom you have been receiving care) or if the law requires it, for example, to notify a birth.

Please be assured however that anyone who receives information from us is also under a legal duty to keep it confidential.

For more information about our Trust and the services we provide please visit our website. www.nlg.nhs.uk
Moving & Handling

The Trust operates a Minimal Lifting Policy, which in essence means patients are only ever lifted by nursing staff in an emergency situation.

Patients are always encouraged to help themselves as much as possible when mobilising, and if unable to do so, equipment may be used to assist in their safe transfer.

If you have any questions regarding moving and handling of patients within the Trust, you may speak to any member of the nursing staff, the designated keyworker within the department or the Trust Moving & Handling Coordinator.

Risk Management Strategy

The Trust welcomes comments and suggestions from patients and visitors that could help to reduce risk.

Perhaps you have experienced something whilst in hospital, whilst attending as an outpatient or as a visitor and you felt at risk.

Please tell a member of staff on the ward or in the department you are attending / visiting.

Zero Tolerance - Violent, Threatening and Abusive Behaviour

The Trust and its staff are committed to providing high quality care to patients within the department. However, we wish to advise all patients / visitors that the following inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated:

- Swearing
- Threatening / abusive behaviour
- Verbal / physical abuse

The Trust reserves the right to withdraw from treating patients whom are threatening / abusive / violent and ensuring the removal of those persons from the premises.

All acts of criminal violence and aggression will be notified to the Police immediately.