

## **Query related to patient choice**

NHS Norfolk and Waveney CCG received a query relating to patient choice, private ADHD assessments and shared care agreements across Norfolk and Waveney.

The query and answers provided in a written response can be found below:

**What is Norfolk and Waveney CCG's position on a patient's right to choose a healthcare provider, particularly as it relates to accessing NHS ADHD assessments outside of the local service? Do Norfolk and Waveney CCG support this legal right and what are they doing to make sure GP's are aware of this and to fulfil their legal duty to publicise and promote information about patient choice?**

In line with the NHS constitution, the CCG supports the fact that patients will be at the heart of everything the NHS does. Every patient has a right by law to make informed choices about their healthcare and be offered the opportunity to compare and make choice decisions based on their individual needs.

In reference to ongoing ADHD care and treatment specifically, the CCG wrote to all GP practices recently to clarify our position regarding shared care agreements between private providers of ADHD services and the CCG.

As a CCG we also need to ensure the choices available to patients are through providers who we are assured can undertake the care and treatment required.

**Regarding private assessments, in the agenda notes, item 11, page 86 "There are currently no shared care agreements with commissioners / primary care (confirmed by the LMC) and private providers" - does this mean that currently no Norfolk and Waveney residents who have been privately diagnosed with ADHD have a shared care agreement for their GP to continue prescribing medication, and is this a policy of the CCG not to allow these shared care agreements when a diagnosis is from a private provider?**

At present there is no shared care agreement between the various private providers of ADHD services for adults and children and the CCG.

However, if prescribers are clinically assured that a diagnosis is robust and the choice of medication is in line with the CCG's shared care agreement then they may choose to take on the shared care.

Clinicians are under no obligation to do this if it is outside their competence or they are not satisfied with the provider credentials. Furthermore, the CCG has not agreed a contract with private providers for this service. The CCG is currently working urgently to increase capacity within local ADHD services.

Private providers should make it clear to patients that GPs are under no obligation to pick up shared care and cannot, in any case, if the medication suggested does not follow the locally agreed pathways. In this case the provider of the service must take full responsibility for prescribing and monitoring the medication.