



ADHD Services

NHS General Practice provides healthcare services free at the point of need. To ensure your GP can comply with this underlying principle, your GP is fully dependent on commissioners ie NHS managers buying these services. If the NHS managers are unable to purchase the required services, then your GP is unable to refer you unless you agree to paying for the specialist service yourself.

Over the past few years across Greater Manchester, GPs have had the option to refer suspected ADHD patients to a specialist service called LANCS UK to be assessed and diagnosed. Unfortunately, due to issues with the service the NHS contract was withdrawn by NHS managers causing an issue with where GPs could refer suspected ADHD patients for assessments. Following a period of no services, the managers have purchased an interim service with certain restrictions. These include the following:

- The new service will only accept patient who were previously being managed by LANCS UK and still on their books and not discharged
- Anybody previously seen by LANCS UK and discharged would not be seen by seen by the new service
- The new service will not accept any new referrals

This has caused significant disruption within the community as your GP has had nowhere to refer patients for specialist assessment, leaving patients with no diagnosis and unable to initiate appropriate treatment. Over the past year some smaller services have agreed to take on new referrals under 'patient choice' but these are now inundated with referrals and have closed their doors to accepting any new referrals.

Patients have taken the decision to engage with private services to have an assessment to establish a diagnosis and where required initiate treatment. These services have sent correspondence to your GP requesting the GP start new medication. Due to the nature of the treatment, without ongoing specialist support your GP is unable to provide the requested treatment and the guidance from NHS managers to GPs is that if a patient engages with a private consultation, then any recommended new treatment including ongoing further prescriptions will need to be purchased privately from the private service provider at the patients expense.

Over the past year, GPs across the boroughs of Rochdale and Bury have struggled with how to support their patients in the absence of a suitable specialist service that they can refer into. This has caused not only upset to the surgery but has also resulted in patients taking out their frustration on their GP surgery with abuse and



complaints. As mentioned, this is not within the gift of your GP to purchase specialist services and has to be done by NHS management.

Rochdale and Bury Local Medical Committee is a local organisation that supports GP surgeries across the 2 boroughs of Rochdale and Bury. Due to the lack of progress in engaging a suitable specialist service to assess ADHD and associated spectrum of related conditions and the abuse that the GP surgeries across the boroughs have faced as a consequence of being unable to refer, the LMC has been asked to produce this literature to explain the current situation regarding the lack of the required specialist service.

I would request that your GP is not blamed for their inability to refer you or your relative/friend to a suitable service for further assessment and refrain from any abuse directed at the surgery. Any concern about the lack of services needs to be forwarded to the appropriate office to ensure that those tasked with ensuring that suitable specialist service are available understand your frustrations.

Any correspondence about referrals for ADHD or related conditions that your GP can not refer for at this moment in time can be forwarded to:

For patient registered with a GP within the **borough of Rochdale**:

Email: gmicb-hmr.complaints@nhs.net

Telephone: 01706 672549

For patient registered with a GP within the **borough of Bury**:

Email: Gmicb-bu.burypatientservices@nhs.net

Telephone: 0161 271 3110 (complaints) or 0161 253 5959 (advice)

I hope the above provides clarity and guidance of where you can take your concerns should you wish to do so.

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