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Referral Criteria for Outpatient Clinical Neuropsychology

Inclusion

- Individuals with a confirmed diagnosis of a neurological condition (progressive or acquired), or family members of such individuals.
- Aged 16+ (service suitability for individuals aged 16 to 18 are discussed on a case-by-case basis).
- Clear rehabilitation goals or family support needs requiring neuropsychology input. Referral questions that can be addressed by a neuropsychological assessment without the need for ongoing rehabilitation sessions are signposted to our sister service, the Russell Cairns Unit.
- Patient/family members have consented to the referral.

Exclusion

- Instances where the neurological condition is not the primary presenting issue.
- Functional Neurological Disorders (FND).
- Dementia in the absence of other neurological conditions.
- Neurodevelopmental conditions or neurological conditions that typically present in childhood such as ASD / ADHD / Tourette's syndrome.
- Geography: in principle we accept referrals from all English counties except for Devon, Cornwall, and Shropshire. In practice where services are available more locally, we advise that the referrer redirect their referral to them.

Prioritisation criteria / risk

New referrals and requests for referrals to be expedited are reviewed on a weekly basis with consideration given to cases that may warrant prioritisation according to set criteria. These include:

- risk of harm to self/other;
- imminent risk of family/relational breakdown;
- imminent risk of employment or educational position breakdown;
- safeguarding concerns (adult or child); and
- risk of care package breakdown.

For each of these criteria the risk must relate to an aspect of the neurological condition to warrant prioritisation by the service.

Decisions about prioritisation are also made holding in mind the potential for other services to be better placed to manage risks issues given the limited resources available within our department.