

Access Assessment Service: Adult Low and Medium Secure Mental Health Services

Appendix 1

easy
read



About this document



This document was made by CHANGE, a charity led by people with learning disabilities.



This document uses easy words and pictures to help you understand more about what a low secure mental health service for adults is.

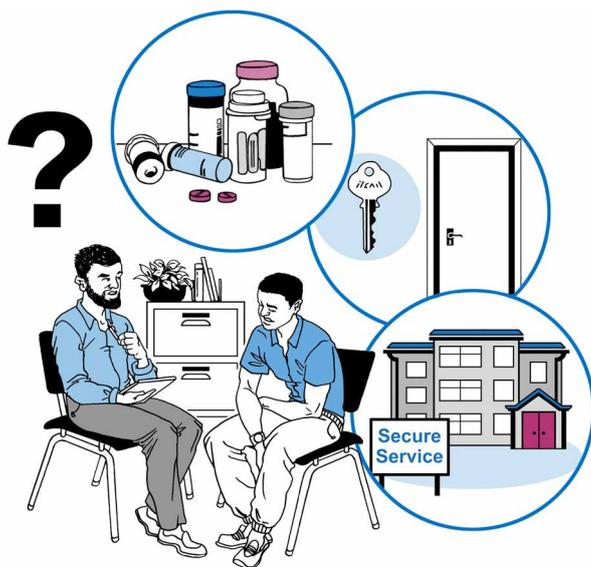


You might want to read through it with someone else to help you to understand it more.

Introduction



This document explains the assessment service provided to patients to see if they need admission to Low or Medium Secure Mental Health Services.



Before going into a Low or Medium Secure Mental Health Service, each patient is assessed to make the best decisions about what care, treatment and level of security they need and if they need to be admitted at all.

Care Pathway



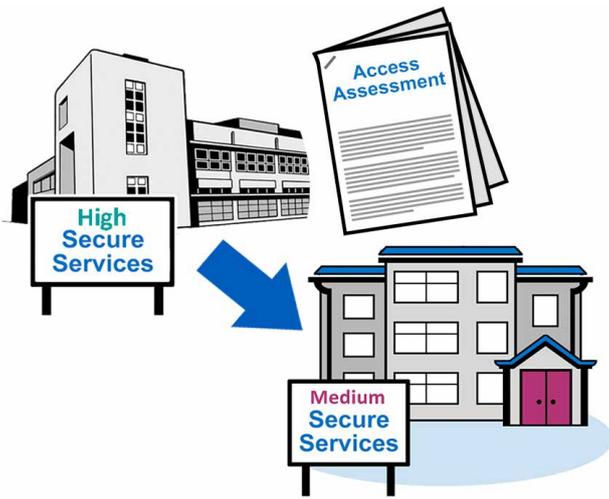
The access assessment service is a very important part of the Care Pathway.



It determines if a patients need to go into secure mental health services.



It determines the level of security the patient needs.

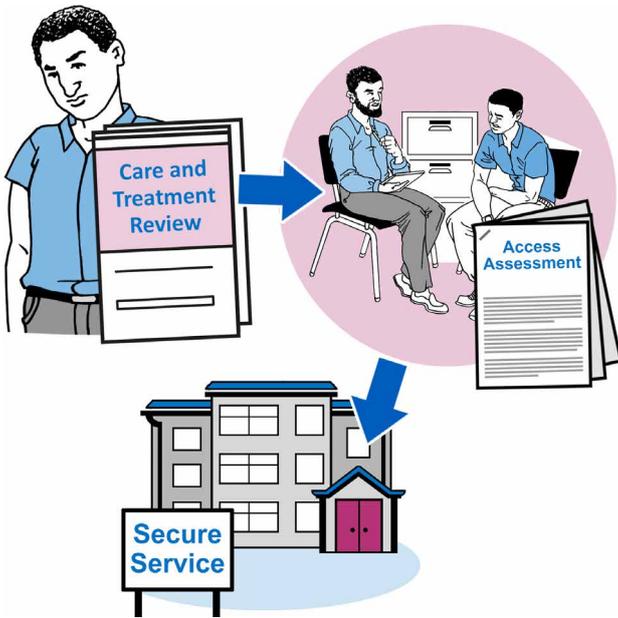


It makes decisions about moving a patient to a different level of secure services.

It details the treatment a patient needs, including specialist treatment.

Patients will be involved all the way through in the access assessment and will be told at the end about the results.

The service will make sure the assessment is done by the clinicians and team members who are best to do the assessment.



Patients with a Learning Disability and / or autism spectrum disorder will not have an access assessment until they go through a pre-admission Care and Treatment Review (CTR).

The CTR will be organised by the Clinical Commissioning Group the patient comes from.

Sometimes, in special circumstances, this will not be possible and an urgent admission may be required.

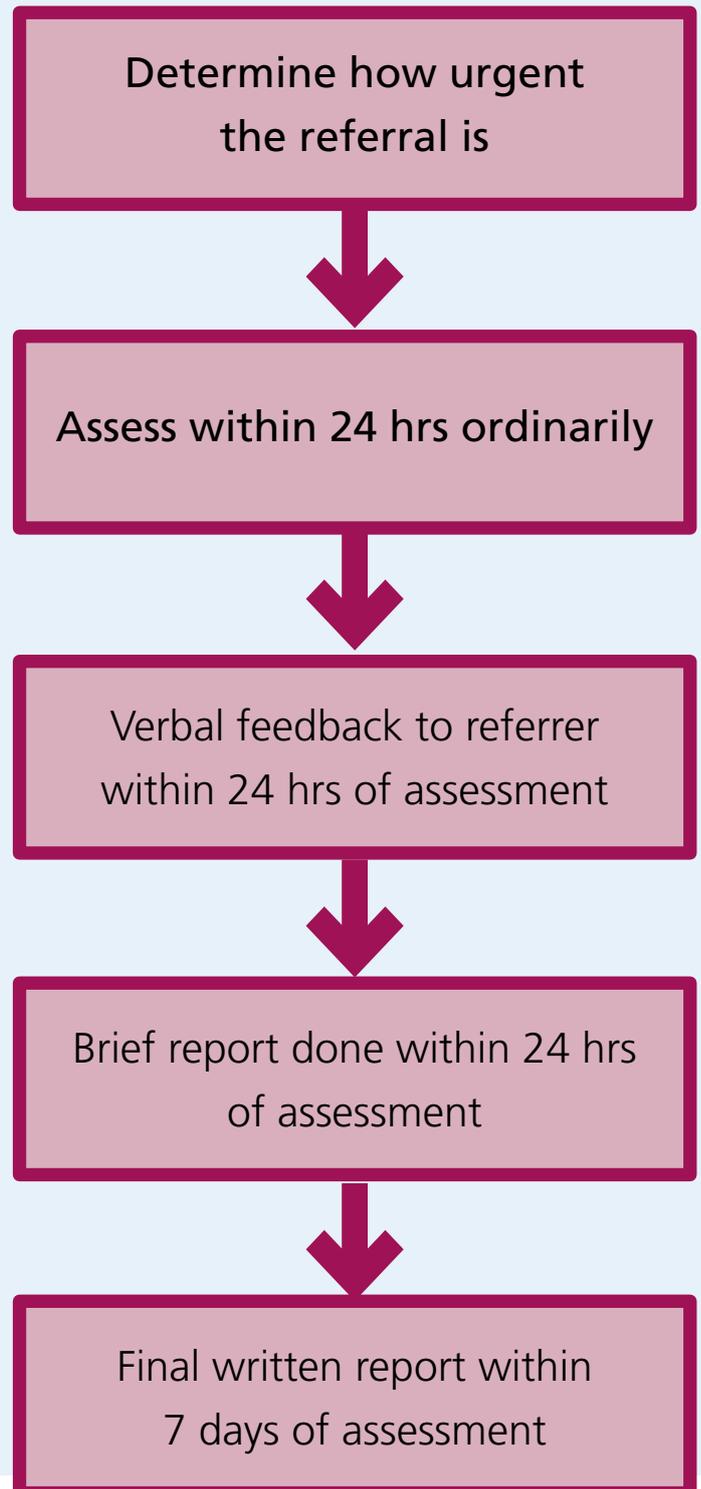
A pre-admission CTR will determine if they need to go into secure services or somewhere else more suited to their needs.

Response Times



Based on the time it takes to process a referral, there are 2 categories:

1. Urgent referrals follow the steps below:



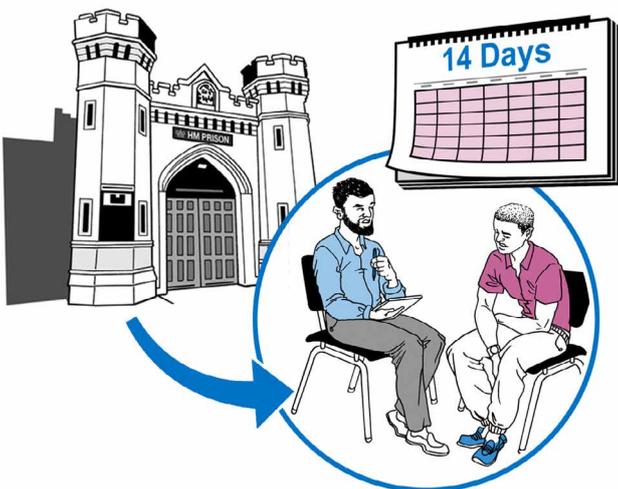
2. Routine referrals follow the steps below:

1. There will be verbal feedback to the referrer within 14 days of receiving the referral

2. The assessment will take place within 20 days of receiving the referral

3. A final written report within 10 days of assessment

Patients transferred from prison should be managed within 14 days, according to the Prison Transfer Guidance . This includes the access assessment.





Some people have a Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Restriction or a Community Treatment Order (CTO).



If they leave secure services and then they relapse or reoffend, they may have to go back into secure services. In this case, they may need a new access assessment.



The access assessment service will work in collaboration with the NHS England Mental Health Case Manager.

Ensuring Quality and Consistency



1. Dispute Resolution

If the referring team does not agree to the outcome of the assessment, the Mental Health Commissioner and Mental Health Case Manager will review the case.



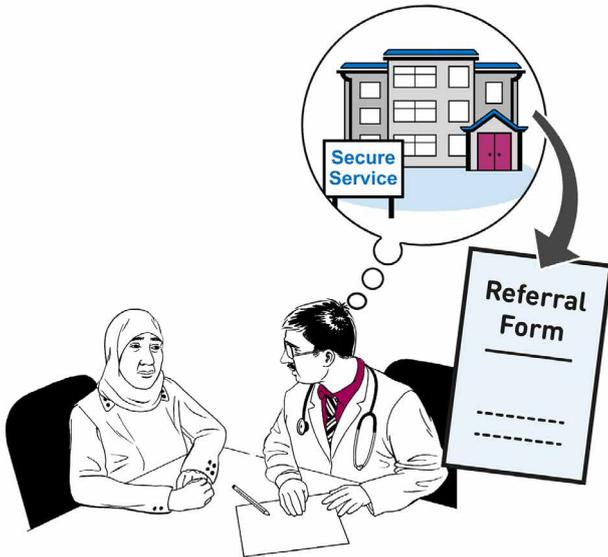
NHS Specialised Commissioning Mental Health Team will make the final decision if the access assessment result is approved or if the disagreement should be taken further.



2. Arbitration Process

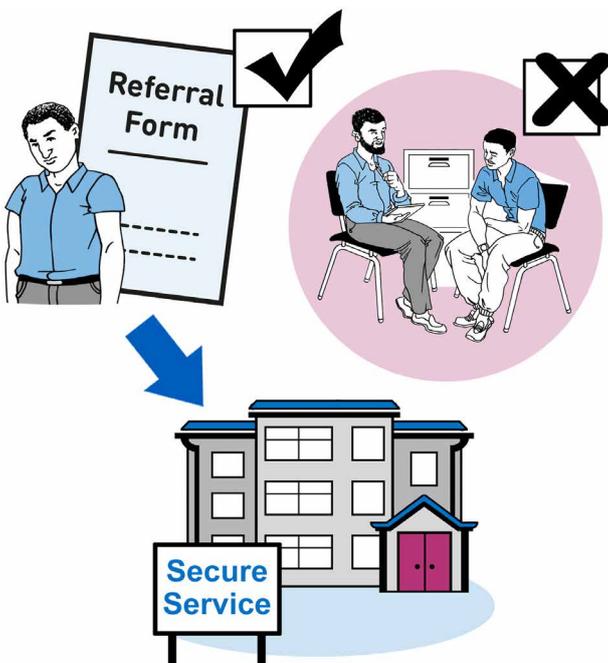
If the case is taken further, then an independent Forensic Consultant Psychiatrist will look at all the information and make a final decision.

Referrals for Access Assessment



Referrals for Access Assessment

Patients can be referred for an access assessment only by a consultant psychiatrist or their delegated clinician, after they have done their own assessment and decided that they think the patient needs to go into a secure service.



Exceptional circumstances

In some very rare cases, some patients might not need to see an assessor face to face because their referral documents contain a lot of information and the access assessment services are able to make a decision with just this information.



This easy read document has been produced by CHANGE
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