

Epilepsy Clinical Neuropsychology Service

This leaflet explains the Epilepsy Clinical Neuropsychology Service. If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you.

What is the Epilepsy Clinical Neuropsychology Service?

You have been referred to us as part of deciding what is the best treatment for you. Concerns about memory, attention, language, reasoning and general problem solving abilities in people with epilepsy are not uncommon. Neuropsychological assessment helps in understanding your current strengths and difficulties and considers possible influencing factors like medications, seizures and mood. This will help to find the most appropriate treatment or advice for you.

How can Neuropsychology help?

The aim of the appointment is to help you:

- Make sense of why some tasks are difficult for you
- Identify strategies to help memory, concentration or other thinking skills
- Provide information on other services that may be able to help.

Who can attend / receive the service?

The service only accepts referrals from hospital clinicians. You will be sent an appointment letter to your home address with the details of your appointment.

Where do I need to go?

Appointments usually take place in Neurology Outpatients, Atkinson Morley Wing, St George's Hospital. We will let you know where to attend in your appointment letter.

What happens at my appointment?

We will ask you about the kind of problems you are having and your friend or relative will be asked for their views about any changes. We usually ask you to do a variety of paper and pencil tests, which involve reading, drawing and looking at pictures. These are not exams but are used to look at different abilities such as your memory and concentration.

People usually perform better when they are alone in the room with the psychologist, so we usually ask that relatives or friends are not present while this is conducted.

The assessment will take three to four hours but this differs from patient to patient and will be discussed with you at the beginning of the appointment.

What happens after my assessment?

The results will be discussed with you that day or at another agreed time with the neuropsychologist or your consultant. This will include recommendations for future care. A report will also be sent to the person who referred you.

Does it cost anything?

Treatment is normally free to UK residents, however all NHS Trusts in the UK are legally obliged to assess whether a person accessing NHS hospital treatment is entitled to receive it.

What do I need to bring with me?

1. Bring a relative or friend who knows you well
2. Your reading glasses and hearing aids if you have any.

What should I do if I cannot get to an appointment?

If you cannot attend your appointment, please contact our Booking Team as soon as possible: ☎ **020 8725 4321**. They will arrange an alternative date. If you no longer wish to be seen please let us know as soon as possible so we can offer your appointment to someone else.

What should I do if I would like an interpreter to attend an appointment with me?

If you need an interpreter, please contact our Booking Team: ☎ **020 8725 4321**. Although family members or friends can be helpful in translating information, it is important that formal Neuropsychological assessment is facilitated by a trained interpreter should this be necessary.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about your appointment or about the Clinical Neuropsychology Service, you can telephone us. Our office is open 9am until 5pm, Monday to Friday. Out of office hours you can leave a message. ☎ **020 8725 2470**

Confidentiality

All our staff are bound by rules of confidentiality set by the NHS Code of Practice and professional bodies. We are happy to discuss confidentiality should you wish to do so.

Useful sources of information

- Epilepsy Action: www.epilepsy.org.uk/
- Epilepsy Society: www.epilepsysociety.org.uk/
- Epilepsy research UK: www.epilepsyresearch.org.uk/

- GOV.UK – driving and epilepsy:
www.gov.uk/browse/driving/disability-health-condition

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

Additional services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you on-the-spot advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or the care you have received. You can visit the PALS office between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough wings (near the lift foyer).

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

Web: www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Tel: 111

AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website (www.accessable.co.uk). The guides are designed to ensure everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.

