



**Hertfordshire and
West Essex**
Integrated Care Board

NHS Herts and West Essex

Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Pathological Demand Avoidance

July 2022 V1.0

Version Number	V1.0
Approved By	NHS Hertfordshire & West Essex Integrated Care Board.
Date Approved	1st July 2022
Responsible Director	Medical Director
Directorate	Clinical
Staff Audience	HWE EBI and IFR Team, Primary and Secondary Care Clinicians, Provider Clinical Funding Teams
Publication Date	1st July 2022
Review Date	1st July 2024
Description	Policy for local Evidence Based Interventions procedure
Superseded Documents (if applicable)	West Essex CCG – Pathological Demand Avoidance

Document Owner: Medical Directorate	Prepared by: Associate Medical Director for Planned Care and Prioritisation	First Published: 1 st July 2022
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Document Control

Version	Page	Details of amendment	Author

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The policy should include a contents page, as set out below, and be structured around all of the headings shown (although not necessarily in the same order)

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Section		Page
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Appendices:

Each appendix will be numbered to follow on from the policy document.

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Policy: Pathological Demand Avoidance

Assessment for Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) is not routinely funded.

Rationale

- PDA is not a recognised condition on ICD-10 or DSM-5 and neither of our providers, Virgin Care who deliver the Child Development Centre (CDC) or North East London Foundation Trust who deliver Emotional Well-Being & Mental Health service (EWMHs), recognise this as a condition or provide assessments, recommendations or specialist treatment
- There is no validated tool for identifying cases.
- It has been a concept within autism since 1980s and yet there is no consensus, it remains controversial.
- There is no clinical consensus of whether PDA is a behaviour profile within the autism spectrum or aligned to an attachment disorder

References

<https://www.autism.org.uk/about/what-is/pda.aspx>

Article linked from the Lorna Wing website discussing the diagnosis of the condition.

O’Nions, E., Gould, J., Christie, P. et al. Eur Child Adolesc Psychiatry (2016) 25: 407.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00787-015-0740-2>

<http://www.aettraininghubs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/5.2-strategies-for-teaching-pupils-with-PDA.pdf>

Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy. Individual cases will be reviewed as per the ICB policy.

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