

Policy regarding pathological demand avoidance (PDA)

Request

1 - Do you have a policy regarding the diagnosis of pathological demand avoidance (PDA) by clinicians within your organisation? If so, please provide a copy of that policy.

2 - PDA is a condition not found in the ICD or DSM manuals and only briefly referred to in NICE guidance. Do you have any policy that would constrain a clinician who may be considering a diagnosis not found in these manuals and guides?

3 - Are there any circumstances in which a clinician or a clinical team would be expected to consult with non-clinical management before making a diagnosis?"

Our Response

1. The Trust is working with other partners in the local health economy to finalise a common position on the pathway and related guidance for people with Autism Spectrum disorders. This pathway which is being finalised would also include guidance on diagnosis of the various conditions within the Autism Spectrum. The trust does not have a specific policy for making diagnosis of PDA.
2. The Trust supports clinicians making a reasoned clinical approach to diagnoses as described in the classification and diagnostic systems. The Trust also appreciates that clinicians may consider diagnoses outside the classificatory system, based on their specialist skills and training (for e.g. DISCO (Diagnostic Interview for Social and Communication Disorders) training provide clinicians with skills required to diagnose conditions included within the Autistic Spectrum Disorders). There would be an expectation that the clinical approach to such diagnoses would be structured and based on the use of appropriate validated tools.
3. The Clinicians are not expected to confer with non-clinical management on making a diagnosis.

