



Hertfordshire and  
West Essex Integrated  
Care System



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West Essex  
Integrated Care Board

## Evidence Based Intervention

## Pathological Demand Avoidance

July 2022 v1.0

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<b>Version:</b>	v1.0
<b>Approved By:</b>	Commissioning Committee
<b>Date of Approval:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022
<b>Date of Review:</b>	July 2024



## 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 Northeast 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.**




## Change History:

Version	Date	Reviewer(s)	Revision Description

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