

Evidence Based Intervention

Pathological Demand Avoidance

July 2022 v1.0

Document Owner:	Dr Rachel Joyce – Medical Director
Document Author(s):	Clinical Policies Group
Version:	v1.0
Approved By:	Commissioning Committee
Date of Approval:	1 st July 2022
Date of Review:	July 2024 If the review date has exceeded, the published policy remains valid



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

DOCUMENT CONTROL

This is a controlled document. Whilst this document may be printed, the electronic version posted on the intranet is the controlled copy. Any printed copies of this document are not controlled. As a controlled document, this document should not be saved onto local or network drives but should always be accessed from the website.

 **Do you really need to print this document?**

Please consider the environment before you print this document and where copies should be printed double-sided. Please also consider setting the Page Range in the Print properties, when relevant to do so, to avoid printing the policy in its entirety.

