

The Newcomen neurodevelopmental service

This leaflet explains more about your child's appointment with the Newcomen neurodevelopmental service at St Thomas' Hospital.

What is the Newcomen neurodevelopmental service?

We see children, young people and their families from around the country who have problems of neurodevelopment, such as autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, speech and language problems, co-ordination difficulties, complex learning difficulties, epilepsy and genetic conditions, as well as associated difficulties such as mental health problems, behavioural difficulties and difficulties accessing learning.

Who can attend / receive the service?

We accept referrals from NHS colleagues, including paediatricians, GPs, children's neurologists, psychiatrists or any other medical consultant.

Where do I need to go?

Please come to the Newcomen Centre at St Thomas' Hospital on the first floor of Staircase B. This is in the south wing of St Thomas' Hospital (marked in purple on the hospital maps).

How long is my child's appointment?

Your appointment will take approximately three to four hours.

What should I do before the appointment?

- Think about how to prepare your child for the appointment. On the website you will find photos of our department, which you may find help to prepare your child in advance of their appointment.
- Contact us if you would like any extra assistance on the day (e.g. an interpreter).
- Fill in any questionnaires we send you, passing on a questionnaire to your child's school for them to complete and send to us or give to you prior to your appointment.
- Bring all previous reports (e.g. psychology, speech and language therapy).
- Bring drinks and / or snacks for your child.

What will happen at the appointment?

Our waiting room is designed for children with neurodevelopmental difficulties.

This is a multidisciplinary assessment, which means we work as a team and several specialists will be present at your appointment.

There will be a consultant paediatrician or child psychiatrist, a psychologist and a speech and language therapist. There may also be an occupational therapist. We are a teaching hospital and may have someone observing. We will ask your consent for this.

1. First we will see you all together in one room
2. Where possible your child will then go into the room next door with some members of the team to complete some assessments. This may include table top / physical activities and / or conversation. These assessments are directed by your child's individual needs.
3. We will give you a break whilst we have a team discussion.
4. We will then come back together into one room to provide some feedback. You can decide if you would like your child to be present for this. If needed a staff member will stay with them.
5. We may sometimes arrange a home or school visit to discuss our findings or to make observations in a different setting.

What happens after the appointment?

A detailed written report of our findings will be sent to you within four weeks. If you have any questions about the report please contact us.

Contact us

If you have any further questions please contact our clinic coordinator on **t:** 020 7188 4624 / 020 7188 7188 ext 55481, **e:** Elizabeth.giblin@gstt.nhs.uk Monday to Thursday, or visit our website **w:** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit **w:** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets

Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline.

t: 020 7188 3003, Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm

e: letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

t: 020 7188 8801 (PALS) **e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk

t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints) **e:** complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch. **t:** 020 7188 8815 **e:** languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

NHS 111

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day. **t:** 111

NHS website

Online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you take control of your health and wellbeing. **w:** www.nhs.uk

Get involved and have your say: become a member of the Trust

Members of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust contribute to the organisation on a voluntary basis. We count on them for feedback, local knowledge and support. Membership is free and it is up to you how much you get involved. To find out more, please get in touch.

t: 0800 731 0319 **e:** members@gstt.nhs.uk **w:** www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership

Was this leaflet useful?

We want to make sure the information you receive is helpful to you. If you have any comments about this leaflet, we would be happy to hear from you, fill in our simple online form, **w:** www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets, or **e:** patientinformationteam@gstt.nhs.uk

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A list of sources is available on request