

4 May 2022

Message from NCL's ENT Clinical Network

Re: Referrals to ear, nose and throat (ENT) services in NCL

We wrote to you in September 2021 about the actions we were taking in response to the extended waiting times for access to ENT services as a result of the pandemic. Teams in NCL's ENT clinical network have worked hard to reduce and equalise the waits for access to care through additional investment in services and collaborative working.

There still remain challenges for planned ENT services and waiting times remain longer than any of us would wish, however at this stage we are removing the capacity alert placed on Royal Free London ENT services on 8 September 2021 that highlighted the longer waiting times for first appointments.

As referrers we wanted to update you, in order to assist in conversations with patients. Referrers are recommended to discuss the different options with their patients, who may choose to be referred elsewhere including to services outside of North Central London.

Where can patients be referred?

Patients have the option of being referred into any appropriate ENT service, including all services in the NCL ENT network:

- Royal Free London
- Whittington Health
- UCLH
- Great Ormond Street Hospital (specialist services only)

An indication of the average waiting times at present for each NCL service are below.

Royal Free London, including Royal Free Hospital, Chase Farm Hospital and Barnet Hospital

First appointment wait for **adults** is between 30-40 weeks with extra clinics for first new appointment. Wait for adults between being listed for surgery and treatment is around 4 weeks.

First appointment wait for **paediatrics** is between 30-40 weeks with extra clinics for first new appointment. Wait for paediatrics between being listed for surgery and treatment is around 4 weeks.

Whittington Health

First appointment waits for **adults and paediatrics** is normally 30 weeks although some slots are available sooner for urgent patients. Patients listed for surgery will be treated at UCLH (see waits below).

University College London Hospitals (UCLH)

First appointment wait for **adults** is normally 31 weeks although some slots are available within 18 weeks for P2 and P3 (progressive) patients. Wait for adults between being listed for surgery and treatment is between 10 and 12 weeks following the outpatient appointment.

First appointment wait for **paediatrics** is normally 30 weeks although some slots are available within 16 weeks for P2 and P3 (progressive) patients. Wait for paediatrics between being listed for surgery and treatment is between 8 and 10 weeks following the outpatient appointment.

Great Ormond Street Hospital

Current waiting time for both a first appointment and surgery is approximately 8 weeks (for **paediatric specialist services**), please refer to the directory of services for the list of services available.

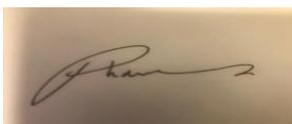
Further details on the waits at each Trust can be found in the Directory of Services on the NHS e-Referral Service.

NCL ENT Clinical Network

The clinical network remains committed to delivering fair and equitable access to the highest quality care and outcomes for people requiring ENT care in NCL and will continue to keep you updated on any further measures that may be applied to referrals to support this.

If you have any questions about this, then please do not hesitate to contact Peter Andrews, chair of the ENT Network via (enquiries.nclics@nhs.net)

Yours sincerely,



Mr Peter Andrews BSc.(Hons), MD, FRCS (ORL-HNS)

Clinical Director of Surgery RNTEDH and Chair of NCL ENT network
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