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Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a question, compliment, comment or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3182. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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Date published: 20/04/2018
Review date: 20/04/2020
Ref: C&YP/HaringCommPaedMS/SCACSS/02

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Social Communication Assessment Clinic

Social Communication and Autism
Diagnostic Service,
Community Paediatric
Medical Service





In this clinic, your child will be seen by a senior Paediatrician as part of the multidisciplinary assessment for autism. The Speech and Language Therapist from the Early Years Team has assessed your child and felt that he/ she may be on the Autistic spectrum.

As part of the assessment for autism, the Paediatrician will take a detailed developmental history with particular focus on your child's communication and social skills and behaviour.

If your child attends nursery or school, we would have requested detailed information from them regarding your child, which is an important part of this assessment.

At the end of this appointment, the Paediatrician will review all the information gathered from various sources and decide whether your child is on the autistic spectrum or not. Whatever the outcome, we will discuss the implications of any diagnosis made and discuss a plan of action as well as what support is available for you and your child.

Occasionally, it may not be possible to come to a firm conclusion at the end of the assessment. In such cases, we will discuss further action with you, which may include further assessment or observation of your child.

When this has been completed, you will be offered another appointment to discuss the results and any possible diagnosis.

If you feel unprepared for this assessment, please contact your Speech and Language Therapist to discuss this further.

We would like both parents/ carers to attend the appointment where possible. If you feel that you would like support from a family member or friend during the appointment, you may bring him / her.

If you require further information about the assessment, you could contact our administrator.

We look forward to seeing you.

