

APPENDIX A

AMENDMENTS TO SERVICE SPECIFICATION FOR GENDER IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS (E13/S(HSS)/e)

Effective 6 October 2021

1. The following amendments have been made to the Service Specification for the Gender Identity Development Service for Children and Adolescents (GIDS). The amendments shall apply to the current Service Specification from 6 October 2021 and replace the previous amendments made in December 2020 which are withdrawn from the same effective date.
2. The judgment handed down by the Court of Appeal in the matter of (1) Quincy Bell (2) Mrs A and the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust (September 2021) confirms that children under the age of 16 may, depending on their presentation, be assessed as legally competent to give informed consent for *Gonadotrophin Releasing Hormone Analogues*. Consequently the terms of the Service Specification for GIDS continue to apply, in that consent should usually be sought by Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust from the child and from one or both parents (or carers).
3. Young people aged 16 and 17 are able to give legally effective consent to treatment.
4. **For children under 16 years** who are recommended by Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust for referral to a paediatric endocrinology clinic for *Gonadotrophin Releasing Hormone Analogues*, the processes followed by GIDS in reaching the recommendation to commence or continue the intervention in regard to the individual must be assured by an independent Multi-Professional Review Group that has been established by NHS England for that purpose. Where the Multi-Professional Review Group is assured that appropriate process has been followed there is no requirement for the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust to seek a prior Best Interest order from the Court in regard to an individual.

5. The Multi-Professional Review Group will review written information supplied by the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust to determine assurance on a number of areas that are listed in this [document](#)¹

6. The Multi-Professional Review Group may request further information from the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust if it concludes that there is incomplete evidence on which to base its assurance decision on one or more areas under review; and it may, at the request of the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, reconsider its decision in respect of individual cases should new or previously undisclosed evidence become available.

7. NHS England has commissioned an Independent Review, led by Dr Hilary Cass, to make recommendations about this service, for which terms of reference are published. This Service Specification will be further updated following consideration of the Review's findings and recommendations, or earlier should NHS England determine that the operation of the Multi-Professional Review Group is no longer needed.

¹ There is no requirement for the individual's lead clinician at the related endocrine clinic to submit information to the Multi-Professional Review Group. Rather, in order for there to be confidence in the processes followed by the endocrine clinics for the purpose of initiating the intervention a retrospective audit of case samples will be considered by the Multi-Professional Review Group, who may propose to NHS England that changes should be made to the processes within the endocrine clinics depending on the outcome of the audit.