



# IF YOUR GP REFERS YOU... YOU CAN CHOOSE



**If your GP needs to refer you for a physical or mental health condition, in most cases you have a legal right to choose which hospital or service you go to.**

This includes NHS and many private hospitals that provide services to the NHS. You may also choose your clinical team led by a consultant or named healthcare professional.

You can choose a hospital or service based on whatever matters most to you – this could include waiting times, quality of service, your previous experience, the opinions of other patients, the location or your GP's recommendation.

To help you make your decision, here are a number of places where you can access information about hospitals and services:

- You can ask your GP about what might be the best choice for you, once you tell them what matters to you most.
- You can compare information about hospitals, services and consultants at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

A choice of hospital or service is available to most patients and in most circumstances. There are some exceptions, for example, if you are a member of the armed forces or if you need to be seen urgently.



## LEARN MORE

For more information, go to:

<https://improvinglivesnw.org.uk/choosing-your-hospital-or-service>

Or scan the QR code.

