

GETTING ASSESSED · 3.6

NHS vs Private ADHD Assessment: An Honest Comparison

An honest comparison of NHS, Right to Choose and private ADHD assessment in the UK: waiting times, cost, what each route covers and what determines shared care.

FOR

Adults and parents weighing up the routes

AUDIENCE AGE

All ages

REVIEWED

17 May 2026

PART OF

The NeuroFX resource library

IN SUMMARY

NHS vs Private ADHD Assessment: An Honest Comparison

The three routes

- **Standard NHS ADHD assessment.** GP referral to your local adult or paediatric service. Free at the point of use. Waits in many regions run from months to several years, depending on local capacity.
- **Right to Choose in England.** A legal entitlement to be referred to any NHS-contracted provider, with the assessment still NHS-funded. Often considerably faster than the standard NHS route. Not available in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.
- **Private with a CQC-registered provider.** Self-funded, fastest option, and to the same NICE NG87 standard. NeuroFX adult ADHD assessment is currently £950, with separate fees for any subsequent prescribing and reviews.

What to think about

- **All three routes use the same diagnostic standard.** NICE NG87. What varies between routes is the time, the cost, the choice of clinician and what happens with medication afterwards.
- **Shared care is the key practical difference.** NHS and Right to Choose usually lead to ongoing NHS prescribing through your GP. Private depends on whether the local ICB accepts shared care for privately initiated medication; this varies widely across the UK.
- **A NICE-aligned private report should travel through NHS systems.** CQC registration and a full NICE pathway are the markers to look for. Some GPs and ICBs are more cautious than others; it is worth checking your local position in advance.
- **Geography narrows the options.** In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the realistic choice is between NHS referral and private assessment.

How we can help

- **Right to Choose ADHD assessment.** NeuroFX is an NHS-contracted Right to Choose provider for adult and paediatric ADHD assessment in England. The assessment is NHS-funded; the patient pays nothing.
- **Private adult and paediatric ADHD assessment.** Available where Right to Choose is not the right fit. Faster waits, choice of clinician, and the same NICE NG87 standard.
- **Shared care where possible.** Where the local ICB accepts shared care for ADHD medication, we hand over to your NHS GP once you are stable. Where shared care is declined, we offer continued private prescribing at our published fees.

WHEN TO SPEAK TO A PROFESSIONAL

Speak to your GP first; that is the entry to standard NHS and Right to Choose, and a useful conversation if you are considering private. NeuroFX offers private adult and paediatric ADHD assessment and accepts Right to Choose referrals in England. Seek same-day help via 111 (or 999 in an emergency) for any mental health crisis.

SOURCES

NICE NG87; NHS England; Care Quality Commission; British National Formulary

NEXT STEPS**Speak to NeuroFX**

Private ADHD and autism assessment for adults and children aged 6 and upwards.
CQC-registered. Bedford Consulting Rooms, 4 Goldington Road, Bedford MK40 3NF.

neurofx.co.uk · info@neurofx.co.uk · 0333 533 3303