

The NHS complaints procedure

This information is for people who wish to make a complaint about the service or treatment provided by the Connect Healthcare. It informs you what to do before you make a complaint, who to go to if you would like to make a complaint and what will happen once you have complained.

Please note that you have the right to make your complaint either to Connect directly, or to the organisation that commissions the service from us, which will be Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group.

What should I do before I make a complaint?

Our clinical staff will explain your condition, treatment or clinical procedure clearly. You should always talk to your GP, Nurse or other Health Professional about any concerns you may have about the treatment or service you have received.

What happens if I am still not satisfied?

If you feel that you have made every effort to try to resolve your concern directly with our staff but this has not been successful, you have the right to make a complaint.

Who can complain?

Anyone who is receiving, or has received treatment or services from the Connect Healthcare can complain. You can complain for yourself but if you complain for a friend, relative, or child, you must have their consent to represent them. You can also get further advice from our corporate team.

When should I complain?

It is always best to make your complaint as soon as possible and **not more than 12 months** after the incident. This time limit may sometimes be waived if there is a genuine reason why you could not make a complaint sooner.

What does Connect Healthcare Rotherham need to know about my complaint?

To make a formal complaint, you should contact us (via telephone, email or writing) and give us much information as possible about what, where and when it happened. Don't forget to include your full name, address, telephone number, date of birth and your NHS number, if you know it.

Wherever possible, you should give the name and the job title of any member of our staff involved in the complaint. Please also indicate how you would like your complaint to be resolved **and please state the outcome you hope for.**

Who should I send my complaint letter to?

You can address your letter to our Connect Healthcare who will make sure your complaint is acknowledged and investigated:

2nd Floor
Valley Health Centre
Saville Street
Dalton
Rotherham
S65 3HD

Please make sure you enclose written consent if you are complaining on behalf of someone else. You should also keep a copy of your letter.

What do I do if I do not want to write a letter?

You can email your complaint to connecthealthcare.rotherham@nhs.net or you can contact the team on [01709 850427](tel:01709850427) and they can take the details of your complaint or arrange for an appropriate person to contact you to discuss your concerns.

When will I hear from you?

We will contact you in the first instance within three working days (from when Connect receive your complaint). The purpose of the initial contact is to acknowledge your complaint and advise you of how we plan to investigate the issues raised.

We will provide you with a full written response within a reasonable timeframe once we have been able to fully investigate the concerns raised in your complaint.

What will you do about my complaint?

Our reply to you will show how we have listened to and investigated your concerns. This might mean giving an apology, explaining what changes and improvements we will make or detailing any further action proposed.

Can I take my complaint further?

If you are not satisfied with our response to your complaint, you can ask for us to explain or clarify our response or discuss other possible resolution options. You also have the right to raise your complaint with Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group. Connect staff will provide their contact details for you.

If, after this, you still feel that your concerns have not been resolved, you have the right to ask the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman to review your case.

You should do this within **six months** of our final response to you. Please call them on 0345 015 4033.

Further information

For more information about making a complaint please speak to the Connect Team on [01709 850 427](tel:01709850427).

Alternatively you can send an email to: connecthealthcarerotherham@nhs.net

If you need independent advice or support about making your complaint you can contact:

- **The Patient Advice and Liaison Service**
You can find your local PALS office at the Office Directory at PALS online.
- **Care Quality Commission**
Contact: 03000 616161 or use the internet to contact them on:
enquiries@cqc.org.uk
- **Independent Complaints Advocacy Service (ICAS)**
Contact Yorkshire and Humberside: 0300 456 8349
- **Citizens Advice Bureau**
Your local Citizens Advice Bureau can provide you with support if you want to complain about the NHS services we provide, local Citizens Advice Bureau details are listed on their website.
- **Health Service Ombudsman**
Visiting www.ombudsman.org.uk
Calling the complaints helpline on 0345 0154033 (Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5:30pm)
Emailing phso.enquiries@ombudsman.org.uk
Faxing 0300 0614000
Writing to:
The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman
Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QP