

Specialist Advice Services

Clinical Responsibility & Medicolegal Liability FAQs Summary



England



Summary

Specialist Advice: Clinical Responsibility and Medicolegal FAQs

What is Specialist Advice?

[Specialist Advice](#) is an umbrella term which encompasses Advice & Guidance (A&G) and Referral Assessment Services/triage (RAS) models. Specialist Advice enables the sharing of relevant clinical information prior to or instead of an outpatient appointment. Specialist Advice between referring and providing clinicians is central to outpatient transformation and [elective care recovery](#). Specialist Advice is expanding rapidly due to advances in digital technology across both the [NHS e-Referral service](#) and independent clinical Advice and Guidance platforms.

Aim of FAQs

As Speciality Advice services have continued to expand, clinicians both in primary and secondary care have sought clarification on clinical responsibility and medicolegal positions in a number of areas.

To help with this, the NHS England Outpatient Recovery and Transformation team have developed two FAQ documents to support systems to optimise collaborative Specialist Advice path. These FAQs seek to clarify existing policy and aim to support safe delivery of Specialist Advice services as part of the wider planning of local elective care and outpatient activity.

FAQ documents

The two FAQ documents should be used in conjunction with each other.

1. [Specialist Advice and Clinical Responsibility FAQs](#) covers good clinical practice relating to Specialist Advice, including delegation, clinical competency, diagnostic requests and optimal turn-around times.
2. [Specialist Advice Medicolegal coverage and liability FAQs](#) supports conversations around legal liability and clinical cover for the delivery of Specialist Advice services.

Both documents outline how referring and providing clinicians share clinical responsibility and decision making on how patients are managed after a Specialist Advice request has been made.