

Guidance for GPs making mental health referrals to secondary care

The **Single Point of Access** (SPOA) was developed by Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (BSMHFT) following discussions with commissioners, GP leads from the CCGs and service users and carers. Its aim is to streamline the referral process and reduce the many access points into our services.

Quick reference guide for referrals:

Making a referral	<p>Only new mental health referrals are triaged by the SPOA team.</p> <p>Patients already under BSMHFT's care will continue to be cared for by the assigned team. Call the team direct for advice – contact details are in our Service Directory</p>
SPOA team availability	<p>8am to 7pm, Monday to Friday, call SPOA on 0121 301 4000</p> <p>For urgent referrals outside these times, call Trust switchboard on 0121 301 0000. You will be put through to a Home Treatment team or to the clinician on call.</p>
Who can be referred?	We accept referrals of patients aged over 16 years in Birmingham and over 17 years in Solihull. We are not commissioned to provide CAMHS.
Who can use SPOA?	<p>0121 301 4000 is a dedicated referral line for GPs and healthcare professionals only.</p> <p>Service users/carers should not use the SPOA telephone number under any circumstance.</p>
Referring to Birmingham Healthy Minds (BHM)	<p>Referrals are accepted from GPs and patients self-referring on 0121 301 2525.</p> <p>GPs should use a BHM referral form and return it to BHM. Please do not send BHM referrals to the SPOA team.</p>
GP referral form for secondary care	An electronic referral form template is available to store on your practice system. Contact Julia Buckley on 0121 301 1291.
Mother and Baby Unit referrals	<p>Mothers who need a same day assessment should be referred via SPOA for intervention by the Home Treatment team.</p> <p>All other referrals should be direct to the unit on 0121 301 2182 or 2192 or 2180</p>