**Dear gp,**

**we are currently booking asd assessments within approximately 12 weeks following referral, but we anticipate that this will increase. please check waiting times with local services before making a referral.**

**regards,
psychiatry-uk**

[insert your home address here]

[insert your email address here]

[insert date here]

Dear [insert name of your GP here]

I understand that under the NHS Constitution, I now have the right to choose from where I receive my treatment for any of my mental health issues, when referred by a GP to a consultant or specialist in mental health. This change in the law is set out in NHS Gateway Publication number 07661, “Choice in Mental Health Care”, updated in February 2018.

The criteria for referral are that I *"... must be offered, in respect of a first outpatient appointment with a team led by a named consultant or a named healthcare professional, a choice of any clinically appropriate health service provider with whom any relevant body has a commissioning contract for the service required as a result of the referral, and a choice of a team led by a named consultant or a named healthcare professional."*

The legal rights to a choice of mental health provider and team apply when a patient is seeking an elective referral for a first outpatient appointment and is referred by a GP. The referral must be clinically appropriate, and the service provider must have a commissioning contract with any Integrated Care Board (ICB) or NHS England for the required service.

Having researched the subject and undertaken a self-assessment, using an accredited online diagnostic questionnaire, AQ50, I believe that I might have the neurodevelopmental condition, Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). I enclose my completed AQ50 for your review.

If you agree that there does seem to be an indication that I might have ASD and agree that I should be referred to a consultant or specialist for this, I would like to use my Right to Choose to be referred to Psychiatry-UK LLP, who fulfil the referral criteria as they have a commissioning contract with the following ICB:

* NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board, Unit 10 Phoenix Court, Christopher Martin Road, Basildon, Essex, SS14 3HG.

Their Adult ASD Service is led by Dr Elena Ghetau.

In order to be accepted the referral **must:**

* Be addressed to Psychiatry-UK
* State that the patient is to be referred to Psychiatry-UK for an ASD Assessment under the NHS Right to Choose Legislation
* Be signed off by a GP
* Include a completed AQ50 form and the total score
* Include a patient summary along with patient contact details (phone and email address)

Referrals can be sent as an attachment to p-uk.RTC-referrals@nhs.net.

Alternatively, the address for written referrals is:

**Psychiatry-UK LLP**

**Trewalder Chapel**

**Trewalder**

**Cornwall**

**PL33 9ET**

The current wait time for an appointment with Psychiatry-UK can be found on their website on the Right to Choose page (<https://psychiatry-uk.com/right-to-choose/>).

Regards,

[your name and signature]