Both adults and adolescents with OCD or BDD can be admitted to our inpatient service if their condition is too severe for outpatient treatment, or to help assist with geographical limitations.

In some cases, additional diagnoses such as depression, schizophrenia, or an eating disorder may make outpatient treatment more complex. Adolescents (aged 12 to 17) may be admitted Priory Hospital North London to the Adolescent Unit.

Treatment programme

The programme is designed to maximise understanding and engagement in the early stages of treatment. Patients are expected to conduct exposure or behavioural experiments at least three times a day, undertake homework diaries daily and complete weekly ratings of outcome.

In addition, all staff may model exposure or participate in behavioural experiments to help test out a patient’s beliefs.

Inpatients receive:

- Up to three individual sessions of CBT with their key therapist
- Support in exposure and behavioural experiments from a specialist member of nursing staff
- Group CBT sessions which are specific to OCD or BDD including compassion focussed approaches
- A range of group sessions for related problems such as depression, low self-esteem and social anxiety
- Regular monitoring of progress, which is used to audit outcomes

Therapy may be combined with medication such as SSRI, clomipramine or augmentation to help support CBT and develop more positive outcomes.
Outpatient or Day care service

A weekly session or a more intensive outpatient programme of CBT may be offered to patients who would benefit from such treatment. The therapy would be based around the same treatment philosophy as the inpatient programme.

Family therapy

Partners and relatives are encouraged to meet with the therapy team to help inform the approach and the best ways to support the patient’s treatment.

High specialised service for OCD and BDD

The OCD and BDD service is commissioned by NHS England and CCGs for a national specialist service in treatment of patients with severe treatment refractory OCD and BDD in adolescents or adults. To obtain funding from NHS England, the patient must be referred by a Community Mental Health Team, be assessed to be in the severe category, and be treatment refractory to at least two trials of CBT and two trials of SSRIs (for BDD) and augmentation (for OCD). Commissioning by a CCG does not require patients to be treatment refractory.

The assessment process

An initial assessment for suitability and treatment planning (if necessary), ensuring that the treatment plan is jointly offered with Dr David Veale and a member therapy team agreed with the patient prior to admission.

If this is not possible, then an initial assessment may be conducted as a home visit or over the phone. The admission criteria can be provided on request, and a formal assessment of response to treatment is completed on the ward within the first two weeks - the assessment is focussed on the patient’s ability to engage in treatment. At this point medication may also be reviewed.

Ongoing support

There are several tools that can aid further development and it is advised that patients continue the programme with the following techniques.

Literature

+ OCD patients are encouraged to read the book “Overcoming Obsessive Compulsive Disorder”
+ BDD patients are encouraged to read “Overcoming Body Image Problems”
+ People with specific phobia of vomit and health anxiety should read “Overcoming Health Anxiety”

All books are by David Veale and Rob Willson.

Teaching

Dr David Veale also regularly provides workshops and teaching in OCD and BDD for mental health specialists.

Self-help Groups

Priory Hospital North London provides premises for OCD and BDD self-help groups which meet monthly and attendance is free. For further information, visit the OCD Action website www.ocdaction.org.uk or the BDD Foundation website www.bddfoundation.org

We aim for patients to travel as short a distance as possible so they may return home on therapeutic leave as soon as possible in order to practise in their own environment. NHS patients must have an identified local care co-ordinator to discuss follow-up arrangements and attend a Care Programme Approach (CPA) meeting with a family member.

There should be follow-up by a local cognitive behaviour therapist who would preferably act as the care co-ordinator. Alternative follow-up arrangements including phone consultations, day-patient and outpatient care can also be arranged.

Funding

We are an approved provider for all the UK’s leading private medical insurers, meaning patients may be able to access treatment through their policy. We also provide self-pay options for individuals and families, and corporate arrangements for businesses.

Referral and Admission

To find out further information about Priory Hospital North London, please contact our dedicated 24/7 enquiry team:

Telephone: 0808 2912170
Email: northlondon@priorygroup.com
Visit: www.priorygroup.com/northlondon