National Clinical Assessment Service

A guide for healthcare practitioners

Frequently asked questions
NCAS – fundamentals

- We provide impartial and expert advice to employers and contracting healthcare organisations to support the local management and resolution of performance concerns relating to individual doctors, dentists and pharmacists.

- We are an advisory body and do not act for either the practitioner or the healthcare organisation.

- In all cases, our aim is to help ensure that where concerns have been raised about an individual these are managed and resolved in a fair, proportionate and timely way.

- Patient safety and public protection are our paramount concerns.

- As well as giving advice, we can also assist by carrying out assessments or other interventions, where these will help bring the case to a resolution.

- We support and encourage open and constructive dialogue between individual practitioners and healthcare organisations.

- We are not a decision-making body – any decisions about the ongoing management, employment or contractual status of a practitioner rest solely with the healthcare organisation.

- Where concerns are raised about an individual’s practice, we encourage them to cooperate and engage with local processes to support early resolution.

- We always encourage practitioners to access timely support and advice from their trade union, defence organisation or other representative body, as well as appropriate personal support.
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Introduction – purpose of this guide
This guide is aimed at healthcare practitioners whose employer or contracting body (referred to in this guide as ‘healthcare organisation’) has made contact with NHS Resolution’s National Clinical Assessment Service (NCAS).

This guide describes NCAS’ role and services, and how we deliver our services in relation to doctors, dentists and pharmacists (‘practitioners’) about whom we have been approached for advice.

We hope this guide is helpful to practitioners in understanding the role of NCAS and addressing the most frequently asked questions about NCAS’ services.

The services we provide are tailored to individual cases and this document is a general guide only. We are always happy to discuss with you any relevant issues to your situation that are not covered in this guide – please contact the NCAS Adviser allocated to your case.

We are developing a range of additional guides to describe each of our services in more detail – please see the NCAS website at www.ncas.nhs.uk for the latest information.
Frequently asked questions – practitioner guide to NCAS’ services
Q1. What is NCAS’ role?

General

NCAS’ role is to provide impartial advice to healthcare organisations to effectively manage and resolve concerns raised about the practice of individual practitioners.

We are an operating division of NHS Resolution (www.resolution.nhs.uk). Although each of the operational functions which sit within NHS Resolution focus on distinct areas of activity, all parts of the organisation serve a common purpose to provide expertise to the NHS on resolving concerns fairly, share learning for improvement and preserve resources for patient care.

NCAS’ functions are set out in The National Health Service Litigation Authority Directions 2013, issued by the Secretary of State for Health. We provide a range of core services to NHS organisations and other bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, including:

- Advice service
- Assessment and intervention services
- Other expert services.

These services are described below.

Advice service

Each year, we receive around 1,000 requests for advice from healthcare organisations with concerns about the practice of individual practitioners. The advice we offer focuses on:

- the fair and effective application of the healthcare organisation’s own local performance management and associated procedures
- good practice in relation to local case management and investigation
- helping to identify and consider options available to the healthcare organisation to address and resolve concerns raised about an individual’s practice
- signposting available avenues of professional support and other resources.

We are also able to provide advice directly to practitioners who may, for example, be concerned about some aspect of their own practice, or wish to access advice about rebuilding their skills after a career break.

NCAS advice is provided by an established team of Advisers, comprising senior staff who are aligned regionally to specific healthcare organisations and NHS regions across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
Assessment and intervention services

In some cases, we can offer more detailed input to support the management and resolution of the concerns raised about a practitioner, through our assessment and intervention services. These services include:

- detailed, comprehensive and evidence-based assessments of an individual practitioner’s health, behaviour and/or clinical performance in the workplace. Our assessments provide findings and conclusions aimed at informing a clear way forward to bring the case to a resolution

- professional support and remediation services to develop action plans to address concerns and help return an individual practitioner to safe and effective clinical practice

- multi-source feedback tools to further understand the views of colleagues and patients on an individual practitioner’s work

- assisted mediation in which NCAS-accredited mediators work with the parties in dispute on a confidential and impartial basis to help resolve difficulties which are impacting on professional relationships at work.

Where NCAS has offered to undertake an assessment or other intervention, we will only proceed with the explicit agreement of both the practitioner and their healthcare organisation.

Other expert services

We are responsible for the management of the Healthcare Professional Alert Notices (HPANs) system. This is a system where notices are issued by NCAS to inform NHS bodies and others about health professionals who may pose a significant risk of harm to patients, staff or the public.

We also provide other expert services including education programmes on a diverse range of subjects, such as good practice in case management and case investigation. In addition, we offer a range of expert casework and consultancy services commissioned directly by regulators and other professional bodies.
Q2. Why has my employer/contracting organisation (healthcare organisation) contacted NCAS about me?

We are usually contacted by a healthcare organisation where they have concerns about an individual’s practice and are seeking expert advice to help them determine the way forward. Healthcare organisations seek our advice on a wide range of matters, including concerns about individual practitioner behaviour, clinical practice, conduct, health working in teams and/or working environment, and its relationship with the individual practitioner’s performance. We are usually contacted by a senior member of staff, such as the Medical Director, Director of Human Resources or relevant Clinical Director – someone who understands the complexity and nature of any reported concerns and can commit to organisational action.

If you have any queries about why your healthcare organisation has made contact with us, it is always advisable to speak to them directly in the first instance, and to familiarise yourself with your organisation’s local procedures on managing performance.

Exclusions, suspensions and restrictions

We will also usually be contacted for advice where a healthcare organisation is considering excluding, suspending or restricting a practitioner’s practice. Where patient safety is considered to be at risk or where there are allegations of serious misconduct, it is important for healthcare organisations to be able to take appropriate steps so that the situation can be thoroughly and promptly investigated.

However, we also recognise that such mechanisms should not be used without sufficient justification, as to do so can have an adverse impact on the practitioner, the wider team and the provision of clinical services.

For these reasons, we work with healthcare organisations to help them consider the options available to them to understand and address the concerns, and to help ensure that their decisions are reasonable and proportionate to the circumstances. Where exclusion, suspension or restriction is thought to be appropriate, we will continue to work with the healthcare organisation to routinely monitor the position and advise on good practice, taking account of local and national policy requirements.

Circumstances where healthcare organisations are required to contact NCAS for advice

There are some limited circumstances where an NHS organisation is required to contact NCAS for input. These include circumstances where:

- the concerns relate to an employed doctor or salaried dentist and formal exclusion is being considered; or
- a healthcare organisation is considering taking action in relation to a employed practitioner under the capability procedures set out in Part IV of *Maintaining High Professional Standards in the Modern NHS* (applicable in England), or Part IV of *Maintaining High Professional Standards in the Modern HPSS* (applicable in Northern Ireland) and is asked to consider whether an assessment should be undertaken; or
Q3. What is NCAS’ approach to giving advice?

The following principles guide our approach to giving advice to healthcare organisations:

- We are an advisory body and do not act for the healthcare organisation or the practitioner. In all cases, our role is to provide impartial and expert advice which is aimed towards supporting the local management and resolution of performance concerns.

- In all cases, patient safety and public protection are our paramount concerns.

- Whilst the advice we offer is based on the description of concerns and other information presented to us by the healthcare organisation, we will seek to clarify, understand and, where necessary, challenge the course of action or options being contemplated by the healthcare organisation and how the information available to them may be appropriately used to inform their decision making.

- The advice we provide and options we suggest are underpinned by a clearly explained rationale, with reference to relevant local procedures, national frameworks, policy and guidance as appropriate. We draw on our experience of what is realistically likely to work in the often complex context in which the practitioner and healthcare organisation operate.

- Our advice, and the accompanying rationale for that advice, is always confirmed in writing.

- We support open and constructive dialogue between individual healthcare organisations and practitioners where concerns have been raised about an individual’s practice.

We are not a decision making body. In all cases, any decisions about the ongoing management, employment or contractual status of the practitioner rests solely with the healthcare organisation.

Q2. Continued from page 9

- an NHS body based in England is seeking the issuing of a Healthcare Professionals Alert Notice.

We strongly encourage healthcare organisations to inform the individual practitioner about whom advice is being sought that NCAS has been approached, except for very limited circumstances (for example where this would compromise the local investigation process of the healthcare organisation).
Case study

An important part of NCAS’ role in supporting the management of performance concerns is to provide expert advice and help employers monitor cases which involve the exclusion of a practitioner from their workplace in accordance with the requirements of Part II of the national framework Maintaining High Professional Standards in the Modern NHS. This includes providing advice which supports the principle that exclusion from work is only applied once other options have been considered or exhausted.

The case involved two doctors where one was alleged to have assaulted the other at work (in a pressurised clinical environment). The alleged victim asked for the matter to be managed formally. NCAS had a detailed discussion about the circumstances of the case with the healthcare organisation to help inform its local decision making.

On the face of it, a period of immediate exclusion initially appeared warranted, because serious allegations had been made and it was evident relations between the parties were strained.

The NCAS Adviser, however, explored several alternative scenarios taking account of public protection and safety of staff, and how the complainant might feel about the options available. NCAS advised that it was particularly important for the healthcare organisation to carefully consider the risk of recurrence of the alleged altercation, and that if the healthcare organisation was satisfied that the practitioner was remorseful and apologetic - and the complainant was not fearful for their safety - there would be greater flexibility for the healthcare organisation to consider management options whilst also minimising risk.

With NCAS’ ongoing support, the healthcare organisation successfully investigated and resolved the matter to the satisfaction of all concerned and without recourse to immediate exclusion. A key factor in the successful management and resolution of this case was to give the healthcare organisation the confidence that options other than exclusion could be safe, reasonable and proportionate, taking account of the specific circumstances of the case.
Q4. Who in NCAS will be dealing with my case?

NCAS has an established team of Advisers, comprising senior staff from a variety of clinical, legal and managerial backgrounds with considerable experience of handling concerns raised in relation to professional practice. In each case, NCAS’ input is overseen by a designated Adviser, who oversees the provision of our services throughout the life of the case.

The Adviser will provide telephone or face-to-face advice and will always confirm their advice in writing to the healthcare organisation.

Our Adviser team members are aligned regionally to specific trusts and NHS regions across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. For details about alignment of our Advisers to specific organisations, please see www.ncas.nhs.uk/accessing-case-services/.

We also have a dedicated team of Assessment & Intervention staff with expertise in the methods and processes which underpin the delivery of our assessments and other specialist interventions. In each case where we are carrying out a specialist intervention, the Assessment & Intervention team will act as the key point of contact to share information and guide the practitioner and healthcare organisation through our processes.

Q5. I need to speak to someone about my case. Who do I contact?

If you need to speak to someone at NCAS about your case, the best person to get in touch with is usually the Adviser allocated to your case. Each case has an allocated case number and it is helpful if you have your case number to hand if you know it. You can arrange a time to speak with them by contacting NCAS on 020 7811 2600 or via casesupport@resolution.nhs.uk.

If your query relates specifically to the management of your assessment or other intervention, please contact the named member of our Assessment & Intervention team handling the matter either through the contact details provided to you, or by calling us on 020 7811 2600 or emailing us on casesupport@resolution.nhs.uk.
Q6. Can NCAS make decisions about my employment or practice status?

No. As mentioned earlier, we are an advisory and not a determining or regulatory body. Any management decisions, including in relation to your employment or practice status, rest solely with your healthcare organisation.

NCAS’ advisory role applies to all of our casework functions, including our Assessment & Intervention services.

Where we have undertaken an assessment of a practitioner, the assessment report which follows is advisory and the opinions expressed are aimed at providing an independent view on a practitioner’s performance in order that a clear and informed way forward can be identified to support the resolution of the case.

In making any decision about an individual’s employment or practice status, the healthcare organisation may have regard to our advice alongside any other information which it considers to be relevant, including submissions from the practitioner and/or their professional representatives. The healthcare organisation is not bound by our advice. It therefore follows that, having considered and weighed up all the relevant information available, the healthcare organisation may decide to take a differing view to that expressed by us.

Q7. Do I have a right of reply in relation to the concerns that a healthcare organisation has about me?

We always encourage open and constructive dialogue between a practitioner and their healthcare organisation about any concerns raised. As such, it is always advisable for a practitioner to share their comments directly with their healthcare organisation to help inform the local management of the case.

We do not test the veracity of the information provided to us by either the healthcare organisation or the practitioner, nor can we be the judge or arbiter where there are conflicting views.

We can however advise on options available to clarify the concerns as well as to facilitate discussions between the parties involved to help towards a resolution.

It is important to remember that any decision affecting an individual’s practice or employment status rests with the healthcare organisation based on the information available to it, including information provided by the practitioner themselves.
Q8. Does NCAS conduct investigations into specific incidents or events?

Whilst we do not offer an investigation service ourselves, we regularly advise healthcare organisations on good practice when carrying out investigations. We also deliver skills-based workshops on conducting and managing investigations to a range of clinical and managerial audiences.

Q9. What is the difference in role between NCAS and my professional regulator (the General Medical Council, General Dental Council and General Pharmaceutical Council)?

The focus of our input is to support the local management and resolution of performance concerns raised about a practitioner in the context of their employment. We provide advice to the healthcare organisation to inform their decision making, and do not have any regulatory function.

By contrast, healthcare regulators and their relevant committees have statutory powers to investigate and take action where there are concerns about the fitness to practise of a registered practitioner.

NCAS works in partnership with healthcare regulators to ensure that our respective roles and activities are clear and to help ensure effective channels of communication exist at both national and local levels.

It should be noted that NCAS currently provides a specialist service to the General Dental Council (GDC) under contract – however, this is a discrete service to inform the GDC’s decision making processes and is distinct from the core services we provide to healthcare organisation as described earlier in this document.
Q10. What help can NCAS offer to me directly?

Whilst our services are aimed primarily at healthcare organisations, we also welcome contact from individual practitioners who may be seeking advice about performance concerns or might wish to know more about the services we provide.

We can assist practitioners contacting us in a number of ways, for example, by:

- Providing general advice where a practitioner may be concerned about some aspect of their own health or clinical practice, or wishes to access advice about rebuilding their skills after a career break.
- Providing general information to help a practitioner better understand some of the procedural requirements that may inform a healthcare organisation’s management decisions about an individual practice.
- Responding to a request for information, for example, if a practitioner wishes to check whether they are, or have been, the subject of a case at NCAS.
- Providing information about NCAS’ range of services.

Q11. I have a concern about my healthcare organisation’s handling of my case. Can NCAS help?

If you have concerns about your healthcare organisation’s handling of your case, it is important that your healthcare organisation is made aware of your concerns. Whilst NCAS is unable to arbitrate on such matters, we can, where appropriate, facilitate discussion between you and your healthcare organisation in an effort to support a constructive dialogue about the issues of concern.

You should also discuss your position with your representative of your trade union or defence organisation if you are a member.
Q12. My healthcare organisation has referred me for an NCAS assessment or other intervention. What does this mean?

In some cases, a healthcare organisation may seek our view on whether an assessment of a practitioner’s practice would be helpful in clarifying and managing performance concerns in order to move the case to a resolution.

Our assessments are aimed at:

• Supporting the implementation of evidence-based, timely and fair management solutions to resolve concerns about performance.

• Enabling practitioners to return to safe and effective practice, where appropriate.

• Helping to ensure public protection and patient safety.
Our assessment services help to clarify and understand the performance of individual practitioners, and provide the healthcare organisation and practitioner with a sound basis upon which to bring the case towards a resolution.

Where we recommend that an assessment should be carried out we can offer to undertake one of a range of independent assessments, including, for example, full performance assessments, assessments of behavioural concerns and assessments of occupational health. Each type of assessment is described further in the response to question 13 below. Where appropriate to the circumstances of the case, we are also able to offer access to our Professional Support and Remediation services which may follow on from an NCAS assessment or local investigation or review.

Our assessment services are aimed at clarifying and understanding the performance of individual practitioners and providing healthcare organisations and practitioners with a sound basis upon which to bring the case towards a resolution.

As noted earlier, in some circumstances the healthcare organisation may be required to seek a view from NCAS on whether an assessment should be carried out, specifically if they are considering taking action in relation to a practitioner under the capability procedures set out in Part IV of Maintaining High Professional Standards in the Modern NHS (applicable in England) or Part IV of NCAS Maintaining High Professional Standards in the Modern HPSS (applicable in Northern Ireland).

Our approach in each case to considering whether to recommend that an assessment should be carried out is described in our Consideration of Assessment – NCAS Policy Statement which can be found at www.ncas.nhs.uk/accessing-case-services/case-services-overview/assessment-services/

We are committed to working with both the healthcare organisation and the practitioner to help understand whether an assessment should be carried out, and if so the type of assessment that would be most appropriate to the circumstances.

With that in mind:

- we will want to hear the views of both the healthcare organisation and the practitioner before deciding whether to recommend that an assessment be undertaken
- where we recommend that an assessment should be carried out, it should be understood that this may only be one of a range of options open to the healthcare organisation and we can only proceed with the assessment once we have the explicit agreement of both the healthcare organisation and practitioner.

If an assessment is being considered in your case, we will ask your healthcare organisation to ensure that you have access to the relevant information as soon as possible, and we will also make contact with you (as well as your healthcare organisation) to inform you of our decision on whether or not an assessment is recommended, including suggested next steps.
Q13. What types of assessment do NCAS carry out?

The exact type of assessment we carry out will be dependent on the exact circumstances of the case. The types of assessments we carry out include the following:

- **Full performance assessments**
- **Assessments of behavioural concerns**
- **Assessments of occupational health**
- **Multi-source colleague and patient feedback**

Each is described in more detail below.

**Full performance assessment**

This is our most comprehensive intervention, which provides a definitive view on the overall standard of an individual practitioner’s performance across their scope of practice, as well as identifying any factors which may be contributing to concerns about the individual’s practice. This intervention is particularly valuable where the reported concerns are wide-ranging, complex and/or longstanding, or for cases where the extent of the concerns and possible underlying causes require clarification.

Our full performance assessment includes an assessment of the practitioner’s health, an assessment of behaviours, multi-source feedback, and a detailed workplace-based assessment of clinical practice based on direct observation, a review of clinical records, and a case based assessment, all of which are conducted by a trained team of clinical and lay assessors. We consider not just the practitioner’s standard of clinical practice but also their working environment and how this may be influencing their performance.
The result is a comprehensive report with robust, evidence-based findings and conclusions in respect of the individual’s practice, which provide the basis for a clear way forward to bring the case towards a resolution.

The validity and reliability of the NCAS assessment rests on wide sampling across a practitioner’s work, using a range of assessment instruments and multiple assessors.

Our assessment service is underpinned by a comprehensive training programme for our assessors as well as a rigorous quality assurance framework. Taken together, our established approach helps to ensure the robustness and defensibility of the findings and conclusions reached in our assessments.

Assessment of behavioural concerns

Where the concerns about an individual practitioner have their primary focus on the practitioner’s behaviour and relationships with colleagues, and where there is not misconduct requiring the use of disciplinary procedures, we may offer to undertake an assessment of the practitioner’s behaviours. This assessment involves completion of psychometric tests followed by a full-day structured interview with an NCAS behavioural assessor (an occupational psychologist), together with an occupational health assessment and multi-source feedback. The aim is to provide an independent view on any behavioural factors which may be causing concern about the practitioner, and to identify other factors that may be contributing to these concerns. The report that follows is used as a basis for informing next steps to address any behavioural problems or areas for development that have been identified.

Assessment of occupational health

Sometimes concerns about a practitioner focus on a practitioner’s health and how this may be influencing their performance. In these cases we can offer an assessment of occupational health. We have significant experience in occupational health services specifically tailored for clinicians with reported performance difficulties. We are also able to offer timely access to specified specialist health services where there may be indications of possible cognitive impairment.

Multi-source colleague and patient feedback

Whilst not a detailed assessment of practice, multi-source colleague and patient feedback can be a useful tool for understanding the views of colleagues and patients on a practitioner’s work, as well as aiding the individual’s professional development. We work with the healthcare organisation and practitioner to collect and collate views from both colleagues and patients before presenting a report of the feedback to the parties.
Q14. What is NCAS’ Professional Support and Remediation (PSR) service?

Through our PSR service, NCAS offers a wide range of bespoke action plans aimed at supporting healthcare organisations and practitioners to help individual practitioners return to safe and effective practice. Structured action plans are developed following a review of the particular circumstances of each case, taking into account any development needs in areas such as leadership, patient or colleague interaction or other behavioural issues, in addition to supporting the development of clinical knowledge and skills.

NCAS action plans include:

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<th>Professional development action plans</th>
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<td>Where evidence identifying performance concerns is available either following an NCAS assessment or local assessment.</td>
<td>Supporting a practitioner’s re-skilling and/or reintegration into clinical practice following a prolonged period of absence (with or without pre-existing performance concerns).</td>
<td>To support a practitioner to develop particular areas of their practice further.</td>
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Case study

NCAS works with healthcare organisations and practitioners to support the return of practitioners to safe and effective clinical practice where appropriate. This can include circumstances where NCAS has undertaken an assessment or our input may follow a local investigation or review, or the involvement of another external body.

Mr A was a consultant surgeon whose practice had been found to be deficient in a number of areas following a performance assessment carried out by the General Medical Council. As a result, Mr A’s clinical practice was restricted for a period of 13 months and NCAS was asked by his healthcare organisation to produce an action plan aimed at addressing the areas of practice requiring remediation. These included his operative and technical skills, approach to infection control, communication with patients and leadership skills. Following NCAS advice, Mr A was placed on a phased return to clinical practice in a host placement Trust which involved direct supervision and support from a clinical supervisor.

NCAS designed a nine month action plan to provide Mr A with an opportunity to rebuild his confidence and clinical skills in a supported environment. The programme provided a clear structure for Mr A’s return to work and clinical practice, based on clear milestones for performance review and informed by the interventions within the plan to ensure a fair, evidence-based approach. The plan included an induction phase for the placement, provision for a sliding scale of supervision from an experienced senior consultant as well as protected time for regular and structured reflection, feedback and professional development activities.

Mr A completed the plan successfully, taking increasing responsibility for patient care and leadership as he worked towards a return to consultant level practice. At the conclusion of the programme, Mr A’s clinical supervisor reported that Mr A was providing satisfactory care for patients expected at consultant level and that he was in a position to return to his employing Trust.

A shorter three month follow-up programme designed by NCAS allowed the employing Trust to actively manage and support Mr A’s reintegration to the department. This plan was also completed successfully and evidence gathered through the reintegration plan demonstrated that the concerns identified by the GMC had been successfully resolved and that Mr A was delivering the level of patient care expected of a consultant in his specialty.
Q15. How does NCAS use the information it holds about me?

We will not normally share details of a case (or even confirm that NCAS has a case in relation to a practitioner) other than with the healthcare organisation or the practitioner themselves.

There are, however, some limited circumstances where it may be necessary to disclose information to another party such as where there is an overriding public interest or where we are otherwise legally obliged to do so.

Further details about how we process personal information can be found on our website at www.nhsla.nhs.uk/Pages/How-we-use-your-information--NCAS.aspx.

Q16. How does NCAS deal with concerns raised by a whistleblower?

NCAS can sometimes receive unsolicited expressions of concern about a practitioner, who may or may not be the subject of an NCAS case.

These concerns might be raised by colleagues, patients or members of the public. In addition, we may receive information from a practitioner who has concerns about their healthcare organisation.

Where the individual raising the concerns is regarded as a ‘whistleblower’, we will advise them on directing their concerns to the relevant prescribed person or body and in a manner that is consistent with our overriding duty towards patient safety and public protection.
Q17. A Healthcare Professionals Alert Notice (HPAN) has been issued in relation to me. What does this mean?

Since April 2013, we have been responsible for issuing HPANs. The HPAN system is used to inform NHS bodies and others of healthcare professionals whose performance or conduct gives rise to concern. HPANs are usually used whilst the relevant regulator is considering the concerns, and are aimed at providing an additional safeguard during the pre-employment checking process.

HPANs are issued where the information provided to NCAS indicates that patients or staff may be at significant risk of harm from inadequate or unsafe clinical practice or from inappropriate behaviour and/or there is a risk that an individual may pose a threat to patients or staff because their conduct compromises the effective functions of a team or local primary care service.

The HPAN system may also be used to notify NHS bodies and others of a bogus healthcare practitioner.

Q18. Concerns have been raised about me – what avenues of support are available to me?

We recognise that where concerns have been raised about a practitioner’s work, this can be a very stressful experience for the individual concerned. We are committed to ensuring the services we offer and the way we deliver our services are sensitive to the impact on the individual about whom concerns have been raised.

Whilst NCAS cannot act as a practitioner’s advocate (nor do we act as the healthcare organisation’s advocate), we always recommend that practitioners access appropriate and timely professional support through their defence organisation or other representative body. We would also encourage practitioners to draw on personal support that is available to them, for example, through friends or family.

The practitioner’s General Practitioner can also be an important source of support.

It also worth remembering that support is available through the healthcare organisation, for example through its local occupational health and counselling services. More avenues of support may be available locally or accessed through the relevant Royal College.

We can also signpost practitioners to other possible avenues of advice and support – please get in touch with our Adviser team if you would like to explore options.
Q19. I would like to provide feedback on my experience of NCAS. How can I do that?

We are committed to the continuous improvement and development of our services and we always welcome feedback – whether it relates to what we do well or where we can improve. You can provide feedback at any time to the person dealing with your case. We may also contact you to request feedback as part of the routine evaluation of our services.

If you feel unhappy about an aspect of the service we have provided in your case, please let us know and how you feel we could do things better. We would encourage you to contact the person dealing with your case in the first instance to see what can be done to resolve the matter.

If you are still not satisfied with the response you have received, you can raise your concerns through our formal complaints process – full details can be found at www.ncas.nhs.uk/accessing-case-services/.

To provide general feedback or suggestions about our services, please contact us on ncasfeedback@resolution.nhs.uk.
For further information and to contact us

We hope this guide has been of use to you. If you would like to know more about any of the following, please speak to an NCAS Adviser on 020 7811 2600:

- Your individual case
- Our services, such as assessments & interventions
- Avenues of support that may be available to you.

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