

APD TESTING CENTRES

Alyson Mountjoy, Chair APD Support UK

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Introduction

APD is a medical condition of neurological origin, not a learning difficulty, although it can cause learning difficulties in some people. In the UK, **only** a consultant in audiovestibular medicine or an audiologist with specialism in APD is qualified to diagnose it. Diagnosis is essential: it can provide validation that the individual has a recognised medical condition that needs support, and show them that they are not alone. It is not simply a question of having it or not: everyone is **UNIQUELY** affected. Appropriate and adequate support (at school, at work, for life) depends on accurate diagnosis and recommendations in the diagnosis report. APD is incurable and it is not just about education; it can affect all aspects of life in some way.

This list provides all providers of full APD testing in the UK. Those not listed only provide screening, if anything at all. Screening alone has been known to miss even severe APD and needs to be backed up by additional tests. **PLEASE** read all criteria carefully: they can vary from centre to centre. If a patient fails to meet them, the referral **will** be refused. Make sure the centre you choose is the most appropriate for your situation. Some centres have listed their criteria within the document, and others have provided additional documents for you to read on our “Diagnosis” page.

<https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/diagnosis>

If you do have a referral refused, contact the testing centre and ask why, or ask your GP or whoever referred you to do so. Knowing might help you to gain a referral elsewhere. Criteria and waiting lists vary from centre to centre. The centres listed are listed in the order they were added, not by order of preference. Information is shown here where no additional documents were provided.

APD Support UK does not support any therapies for APD that might be provided by the clinics listed below as there is no reliable peer-reviewed research to prove that any of them have any great or lasting benefit. Our belief is that APD should be managed by individual coping strategies, appropriate and adequate support at home, in education and at work, and development of self-advocacy skills. Further information about APD and access to support can be found here: <https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk>

1. NHS testing for children in England

a. Great Ormond Street Hospital, London/GOSH

For children from 7 to 15 (before 16 at the time of testing). Lead audiologist: Amjad Mahmood. Appointment queries: Zaina Langley, 0207 813 8315.

Please see the criteria document on the website “Diagnosis” page for full details.

<https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/diagnosis>

b. Royal National ENT and Eastman Hospitals

This is a multidisciplinary APD service for children age 7-15. Dr Chrysa Spyridakou and Prof Doris Bamiou are the consultants there. Acceptance is decided on a case-by-case basis. **Please see the criteria document on the website “Diagnosis” page for full details.** <https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/diagnosis>

c. Fulwood Audiology Clinic

They cover Greater Preston, Chorley South, Ribble, Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre, and Morecambe Bay area. They do **not** take out of area referrals

Dr Ansar Ahmmed, Consultant Paediatric Audiovestibular Physician

Fulwood Audiology Clinic

4 Lytham Road

Fulwood

Preston

PR2 8JB. Tel: 01772 401310

Please see the criteria document on the website “Diagnosis” page for full details. <https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/diagnosis>

2. NHS testing in Wales- children and adults

The Hearing Institute based at UHW Cardiff - for children age 7 plus. (*They also test children 16 plus and adults). The consultant is Dr Rajenderkumar. With just one clinic a month, there is a long wait for a consultation then another waiting period before an appointment for testing, if indicated. Please note: This centre will not test children with autism, and they only see NHS patients living in Wales. A recent hearing test is needed for both children and adults, and the report is to be sent with the referral. NHS waiting lists for this are long. For adults, certain opticians e.g., Specsavers, and Boots also provide hearing tests for adults, but they might charge for the report.

APD Testing Clinic, Welsh Hearing Institute (Audiology), University Hospital of Wales Heath Park, Cardiff, CF14 4XW. Tel: 029 2074 3474 / 07807 457952

Email: audmed@hotmail.co.uk

Website: <http://www.cardiffandvaleuhb.wales.nhs.uk/audiology>

3. NHS testing in Scotland and Northern Ireland (NI)

There is currently no full testing service provided in Scotland or NI for children or adults. However, a separate document is available on the “Diagnosis” page of the website with details of NHS screening for children in Scotland for patients who live in Scotland. **Please see the criteria website “Diagnosis” page for full details.**

<https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/diagnosis>

4. NHS testing for adults in England

This is the only centre in England providing full NHS testing for adults:

Prof Doris Bamiou, Royal National ENT and Eastman Hospitals

Address: 47-49 Huntley Street, London WC1E 6DG. Telephone: 020 3456 7890

A recent hearing test is needed before referral and the report must be sent with the referral. NHS waiting lists for this are long. Certain opticians e.g., Specsavers, and Boots also provide hearing tests for adults, but they might make a small charge for the report.]

5. Private testing in England (for children only)

a. **Southampton University**

N.B they are currently not accepting new referrals. This is a private, 2-tier, multi-discipline children's service. Level 1 merely includes screening, assessments to see if APD is likely, Level 2 provides the testing to confirm it. Due to increased demand, Southampton University is now only taking referrals from those living in Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorset, West Sussex and the Isle of Wight. **Please see the criteria document on the website "Diagnosis" page for full details.**

<https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/diagnosis>

Please check the website for updates or contact them direct.

<http://ais.southampton.ac.uk/auditory-processing-disorder/>

b. **The Portland Clinic** in London: Dr Chrysa Spyridakou and Dr Anu Shete

You can book yourself: no referral is needed.

Address: 205 - 209 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5AH

Direct line: 02073906573.

6. Private testing in England (for children and adults)

a. **Prof Doris-Eva Bamiou**

Prof Bamiou sees both children over the age of 6 years and adults.

You can book yourself: no referral is needed. For additional details and to book, please contact Prof Bamiou's PA at d.bamiou@lhabc1.co.uk

Prof Doris-Eva Bamiou

The London Hearing and Balance Consultants

3 Candover Street,

London W1W 7DH,

Tel 02035325686

Email info@lhabc1.co.uk

b. **The Hearing Clinic, Hertfordshire** - Bridgitte Harley.

<https://thehearingclinic.co.uk/> You can book yourself: no referral is needed.

Tel: Hitchin - 01462 506074; Welwyn - 01707 594979

The Hearing Clinic will see children for APD diagnosis from the age of 7 and they also test Adults. They have an adult testing protocol and offer an adult management program.

Please see their documents on the website “Diagnosis” page for full details.

<https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/diagnosis>

c. **Audiology Planet** - Dr Jay Jindal, BSc. (Audiology and Speech Therapy),
Au.D. Consultant Audiologist

For children and adults.

Prices: Insurance clients are also welcome; prices for insured clients can vary, dependent on insurance companies as they dictate the fee for tests in the contract. Booking is by self-referral.

Clinics: There are clinics in Central London (TBC 2026), Sevenoaks (Springbank Clinic), Tunbridge Wells (Nuffield Health and Grosvenor Road)

Secretary (for bookings): Tel: (+44) 075436 64692; 0330 2233 453

Email: audiologyplanet@outlook.com and info@audiologyplanet.com

Online booking available: <https://www.audiologyplanet.com/book-appointment/>

Enquiry form: <https://www.audiologyplanet.com/auditory-processing-disorder/>

Please see the criteria document on the website “Diagnosis” page for full details.

<https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/diagnosis>

d. **The APD Clinic: Cristina Murphy PhD – London and Birmingham**

For children and adults. <https://www.theapdclinic.co.uk/>

Please see the criteria and management program documents on the website “Diagnosis” page for full details. [https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-](https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/diagnosis)

[uk/diagnosis](https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/diagnosis) Enquiries for both APD assessment and the Management programme should be sent to info@cristinamurphy.co.uk Tel: 020 74678353.

- e. **Hear Pure and The All Medical Group:** for children and adults.

Hear Pure has two testing centres, at Birmingham and Chester. The All Medical Group covers London (based at Rickmansworth). They all offer FM systems and other APD management services (priced separately). All three centres provide full testing and are headed by Dr Amjad Mahmood (Head of Audiology at Great Ormond Street/GOSH) and staffed by other members of the APD testing centre at GOSH.

In all cases, please contact the testing centre direct.

The All Medical Group: <https://www.theallmedicalgroup.com/auditory-processing-disorder-apd> Email: info@theallmedicalgroup.com

Address: 22 Church Street, Rickmansworth, WD3 1DD

Hear Pure: <https://www.hearpurekids.com/>

- Birmingham: 38 Harborne Road, Birmingham, B15 3EB

Email: info@hearpure.com

- Chester: 1A Hoole Rd, Chester CH2 3NQ

Email: info@hearpure.com

Please see the criteria document on the website “Diagnosis” page for full details. <https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/diagnosis>

f. Harley Street Hearing - <https://harleysthearing.co.uk/>

This clinic based in London accepts both self-referral and professional referrals.

They do not ask for a hearing test prior to the appointment and will do one themselves, but if you have one, it is advised to take with you. The testing normally involves two appointments, and they offer assistive listening device systems and Low-Gain Amplification.

Address: 2 Harley Street, London, W1G9PA

Contact: admin@harleysthearing.co.uk Tel: 02074861053

Please see the criteria documents on the website “Diagnosis” page for full details. <https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/diagnosis>

7. Private testing in Wales

There is currently no private testing available in Wales for children or adults.

8. Private testing in Scotland and NI

There is currently no private testing available in Scotland or NI for children or adults.

9. Private testing in the Republic of Ireland

Beacon Audiology provides private APD testing for children and adults in Dublin in the Republic of Ireland, via self-referral and it is open to all who can travel there.

Please see the criteria document on the website “Diagnosis” page for full details.

<https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/diagnosis>

10. Out of area referrals

Under NHS Patient Choice, parents/patients in England have the right to be referred to whichever hospital or consultant you choose, especially if there is no comparable testing in your area, and the same applies to your child <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/hospitals/about-nhs-hospital-services/>

There is a legal precedent set as out of area referrals are made all the time; it is just a question of them refusing because they surgery or hospital must pay for the testing. Another reason is that screening may be available locally but as explained below, this is not recommended unless you have no other option. If your GP or audiologist etc. refuses to refer out of area, please contact your local Clinical Commissioning Group. <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/Clinical-Commissioning-Group/LocationSearch/1> (NHS Patient Choice does not apply in Wales, Scotland, or NI).

APD Support UK also provides a letter template for adults and children in England refused a referral for APD testing at the centre of their choice. This can also be adapted for patients in Wales (by removing the reference to NHS Patient Choice). Other

templates are also available, requesting provision of additional local APD testing centres and reasonable adjustments at school and at work. Please visit the “Take Action” page of the website. <https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/get-involved>

11. How to get a referral for NHS child testing

To start with, your child needs a hearing test within 3 months before referral and a referral cannot usually be sent until after the child turns 7. Hearing loss and glue ear must be ruled out first and grommets should not be in place. It is difficult to test for APD with hearing loss and usually cannot be done during an NHS appointment due to time constraints. Glue ear needs to be treated before testing can take place; they would not, and should not, test a child with glue ear because results are skewed by the intermittent hearing loss that accompanies glue ear. Some private centres might be able to do this as they have more time for additional tests, so contact them to check.

If the hearing test shows no hearing loss and glue ear, then you can request a referral. To meet the usual criteria, you will FIRST need a report from a relevant professional stating that APD is suspected - please contact the centre you want to be referred to, for their criteria if not listed in this document or on the APD Support UK website. **Please see the criteria document on the website “Diagnosis” page for full details.**

<https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/diagnosis>

Any other suspected conditions and speech and language issues MUST be diagnosed before referral; please check with your chosen centre criteria for details of their exclusions as these can differ from clinic to clinic **before** getting a referral sent. Please don't have a referral sent in the hope that it will be added to the waiting list: if it is rejected and you will have wasted valuable time. A hearing test is also advised before seeking referral as an adult.

The About page of the website includes “A guide for medical professionals” dispelling myths around why referral is not possible, and explaining why screening alone does not provide a diagnosis. Also please take APD Support UK's recommended “APD referral process” for medical professionals when you seek a referral. It is available on the “Diagnosis” page of the website. <https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/diagnosis>

Request a referral from your GP, paediatrician, or audiologist (or others listed in the criteria from the centre you choose) asking them to send all reports, and send all the information they can about the child's difficulties (it would help if you can provide them with a list of your observations and the school's). You should read the "What is APD" sheet from the About page of the website and take with you "Identifying APD" and highlight how you or your school/other professionals feel your child is affected.

<https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/about-apd>

Also, none of the testing centres will consider a referral without professional suspicion of APD and all appropriate reports being sent with it. If in doubt, contact the centre of your choice direct.

12. The testing process

An example of the testing process is provided below, but centres can vary slightly. Testing might take place on one or two days at some of the private testing centres, maybe three, so it is best to ask when booking. The recommended centres will follow a similar process, although testing for each individual child may vary slightly and not every test may be necessary, depending on the child's presenting difficulties. You only need 2 difficulties of a certain severity to get a diagnosis of APD (despite some sources incorrectly saying you need them all).

The initial consultation

First, they will take a detailed and comprehensive history, looking at problems that the child has, parents' concerns, teachers' concerns, speech and language reports, cognitive issues, reading, written work, memory issues, other diagnoses e.g., Autism, ADHD, learning difficulties. Any visual problems, current educational environment, and support, pre, peri and post- natal problems, developmental milestones, history of middle ear, neurological and other mendicant problems, ear problems etc. plus family history will also be considered. In some cases, this consultation might be done over the phone.

The testing

- At the testing appointment, there is an examination of ears, general examination, and an observation of speech quality. **N.B if your child is suffering from hay fever or earwax on the day, this can prevent testing. Please take preventative measures beforehand**

The APD tests themselves are selected based on the reports, discussion and suspicions raised in the consultation. They should test from this list, as applicable:

- Tests of peripheral auditory function
- Cochlear feedback pathway
- Ability to hear degraded speech
- Ability to hear speech in noise (if needed in quiet)
- Spatial processing
- Binaural resolution
- Temporal processing
- Auditory pattern sequencing

They can request other tests that are relevant, e.g., Electrophysiology (ABR, corticals) and MRI, if applicable. The audiologist must have sufficient knowledge to interpret these, understand the losses or conditions that may affect the outcome of each test, and if there are other issues e.g., language issues, how that might affect the test results and interpretation. The audiologist also needs to have a very broad understanding of intervention available and find the most suitable to help the child. Testing will be tailored to your child's needs and it consists of wearing headphones in a soundproof room – nothing scary at all.

N.B. You are not obliged to complete forms relating to other conditions at an APD assessment, either on the day or if sent by post, unless the centre provides a multi-discipline service. If sent/given to you, please ask beforehand what the questionnaire is for. Any research relating to you or your child needs your agreement and permission. Only APD diagnosis can be given at an APD testing centre, not any other conditions. If any other condition is suspected by the consultant, please request a referral for appropriate testing (if this is not done automatically).

The results

The test results are usually explained in person on the day of testing, or as soon as is possible afterwards. Different centres have a different approach. Make sure you understand what the results mean, the specialist should take time to explain it and you have a right to be told, in plain English, what the results mean for your child or yourself, plus the diagnosis. If you have APD, ask for the important points to be written down there and then

(If seeking private testing, I would personally you to specifically ask whether you are paying for full APD testing to the level and standard listed; also, if what they provide qualifies as an audiological diagnosis of APD. Get it in writing before you pay. You should also be provided with a full explanation, diagnosis, and report after private testing).

The diagnosis report

This will follow by post; please allow a few weeks. Check the report when you receive it; it should say whether the child has been given a diagnosis of APD/Auditory Processing Disorder (which means that there is enough evidence of 2 or more separate difficulties of qualifying severity to merit that APD diagnosis). But if it says that there are auditory processing difficulties, that is **a diagnosis** of auditory processing difficulties. That means that there is not enough evidence of 2 or more separate difficulties of qualifying severity to merit a full APD diagnosis. It does not mean that there is nothing wrong: even one difficulty needs support.

They might just give a diagnosis of Spatial Processing Disorder: this is a stand-alone diagnosis of one specific APD difficulty affecting locating the direction of speech. If that was the only difficulty found of qualifying severity, that is not a full diagnosis of APD. As stated earlier it needs 2 or more, so Spatial Processing Disorder **plus** one or more other difficulties of qualifying severity **would** merit a full APD diagnosis.

*Other testing centres apart from those mentioned above may not be able to give a diagnosis of APD/Auditory Processing Disorder if they have no consultant to verify the results. The report may then say auditory processing difficulties even if the child has APD, but that might not be the case, so contact them to check. Such centres will clearly

state that what they are giving is **not** a valid APD diagnosis). These are not centres that we would recommend.

A report will be sent to you with the test findings; make sure you request one or it may just be sent to the person that referred you/your child. Testing centres mentioned above may vary in their format. but the report should be expected to provide a description of the tests used, a clear explanation of the test scores/results, the diagnosis where applicable) and recommendations for school/work support. These may be, reasonable adjustments that take the form of support or equipment, which are a legal obligation for your child's school/ or your employer to provide. It might also include recommendations for testing by other professionals if there are any other suspected conditions, and whether they will make a referral or ask your GP to. Do so. Also, the report should contain clearly explained, tailored recommendations based on **your** child's test results, not a generic handout.

Whatever the outcome, following NHS testing, a copy of the report should be sent to your GP. Private testing providers may not do this. In either case, it is best for you to provide one for your GP to add to their records for the person who was tested.

Be mindful of what the report tells you: it might affect your child's support and/or benefits claims. Ideally, any recommendations for provision should be as specific and quantified as possible, avoiding vague wording. If your report does contain vague wording, you should write to the consultant who wrote the report and request the report is amended, vague wording removed and replaced with wording that makes it perfectly clear, what is required.

- Examples of vague wording: 'access to' or 'may benefit from' etc.
- Examples of better wording: 'requires' or 'needs' or 'must'.

Please also contact the consultant or private testing provider if there is anything you do not understand, have any questions, or need an explanation of the technical terms used in the report, the report is taking a long time to be sent, or its recommendations are not implemented by the school because the wording is unclear or does not convey **need** rather than a suggestion.

13. If you are not happy with the service provided

It is up to parents or adults with APD to make sure that they get the service that they deserve, whenever they seek APD testing and diagnosis for their child or themselves, either privately or otherwise. You are within your rights to complain (and ask for a refund, if private) if you are unhappy with the service provided, or feel that you have been misled. We provide as much information as is sent to us. It is your choice where to go, and we hold no responsibility for the service you receive or the outcome.

For any questions on referral, testing and diagnosis, or if you feel a centre has misled you in any way, or failed to provide what was promised, or you have concerns, please contact your chosen testing centre.

If they acted inappropriately, or were rude/dismissive to you or your child, failed to explain the diagnosis fully or with care, failed to carry out appropriate testing or took money under false pretences, report them to the appropriate hospital, following their complaints policy.

If you are unhappy with the lack of APD testing centres in your area, please contact your local health board or Clinical Commissioning Group and MP to request that standardised testing is provided locally. It is your right as a parent or adult with APD to do so. You can use the letter template provide on the “Take Action” page of the website. <https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk/get-involved>

Private providers should have their own complaints policy. Trying to encourage parents or adults to undertake expensive treatment with the promise of success, or buy equipment that they do not want, is also unethical. After the complaints process has been completed, if you are still not satisfied you can escalate your complaint to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

<https://www.ombudsman.org.uk/making-complaint>

14. Support and further information

On the APD Support UK website you will find any APD-related articles, handouts and useful hints and tips (for parents and those with APD of all ages) including A4 posters, plus APD alert cards with designs for children, teenagers, and adults, plus access to APD Support UK's newsletters, and APD-related books. There is also a list of the

current APD support groups for parents, also for teenagers and adults with APD, both UK and international.

For more information and access to online Facebook support groups for parents, adults with APD and supportive professionals, also criteria and other additional documents where provided by the testing centres, please visit the APD Support UK website. <https://apdsupportuk.wixsite.com/apd-support-uk>

Finally, good luck on your APD journey. APD Support UK is here to help: we are listening.

Alyson Mountjoy

Chair APD Support UK.

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