




Initial Health Assessment – Guide for Social Workers

There is a statutory requirement for the Local Authority to notify CLA Health Teams when there is a plan for a child/YP to become Looked After, in order for the Initial Health Assessment (IHA) to be arranged within 28 days and the report available for the Initial CLA Review.

Day 1	<p>Social Care Business Support sends notification of new CLA to CLA Health Team.</p> <p>Social Worker is responsible for sending the following document</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Referral for IHA 2. Consent to IHA and Sharing Information (Placement Plan) <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">The SW does not need to wait until placed</p> <p>Send to:- StrengtheningFamilies-Admin@cumbria.nhs.uk</p>
Documents to complete	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <small>Notificaiton of Becoming CLA.docx</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <small>Referral for Initial Health Assessment</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <small>EXAMPLE Consent to medical and Info</small> </div> </div> <p>NB: We can not accept the Delegated Authority Form, as this does not give consent to sharing any information gathered at the IHA Appointment.</p>
Day 3	<p>If CLA Health have not received any/all of the above documentation, we will send the allocated SW a reminder email.</p>
Day 5	<p>If CLA Health have still not received any/all of the above documentation, we will send the allocated SW a further reminder email, copying in their Team Manager.</p> <p style="color: red;">NB: We will we not send any further reminder emails.</p>
Day 14	<p>If CLA Health have still not received any/all of the above documentation, an email will be sent to the Senior Manager, to notify them that we have been unable to arrange the IHA, copying in the Senior Manager for CLA, and the Named Nurse for CLA (Health). We will continue to notify Managers on a weekly basis until all of the documentation has been received.</p>

Please keep us informed of any change of carer, placement or SW during the IHA process.

Booking the IHA Appointment

We try to contact the carer to book the appointment so it is convenient for them, however appointment slots are limited.

We will email the allocated SW a copy of the IHA appointment, **as they are expected to also attend**. This is to ensure the Paediatrician has as much information as possible to inform the IHA and Care Plan. If the SW is unable to attend, they may wish to contact the CLA Health Team, to see if any more mutually convenient appointment could be arranged.

Please consider if you feel it is the child's best interest to invite the birth parents to the appointment, **it is the SW responsibility to do this**. The parent will be the expert on their child and so not being invited should be the exception.

You should receive the completed IHA report within 14 days following the appointment, if you have not received it please contact the CLA Health Team on the above email.

If Not Brought to the IHA Appointment

If the child/YP is **not brought to the 1st IHA appointment** we will email the allocated SW to inform them, we will automatically offer a 2nd appointment. We would appreciate it if you would talk to the carer/YP and explain the importance of the Health Assessment.

We would appreciate it if you are aware the child/YP is unable to attend that you notify us as soon as possible so that we are able to offer the appointment to another child/YP.

If the child/YP is **not brought to the 2nd IHA appointment**, we will email the allocated SW to inform them that unfortunately we will not be able to automatically arrange another appointment. It will then be the SW responsibility to contact the CLA Health Team to request a further IHA appointment and ensure attendance.

Refusal

If a Child/YP informs the SW they are refusing to attend their IHA appointment, the SW must inform CLA Health as soon as possible. The Social Worker is encouraged to understand why they do not want to attend the appointment and promote attendance. If however, they still do not consent it will be recorded in their health records that they have refused the IHA and no further IHA appointments will be offered unless advised by the SW.

NB: they will continue to still be offered an annual Review Health Assessment by the CLA Health Team.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

We still require the same paperwork for YP who are UASC. If placed out of Cumbria some areas may arrange the IHA appointment without a signed consent as the child/YP can sign their own consent on the day of the appointment. However, some areas insist on having the signed consent prior to arranging the IHA, and will refuse to arrange an IHA without it. The best option is always to get that consent, to speed up the process and ensure their health needs are identified at the earliest opportunity.

Contact Details for CLA Health Admin Teams

Email: StrengtheningFamilies-Admin@cumbria.nhs.uk

(Preferred method of contact)

Telephone:

East: 01228 603051

West: 01900 705865

South: 01229 484013

If you have any concerns we would encourage you to get in touch with us using the contact methods above