



Referral Criteria for Young People with Acquired Neuro-disability

Shooting Star Chase aims to offer equitable acceptance criteria and service to all life-limited young people (age 0-19years) and their families living within our geographical area. With this aim in mind, specific guidance has been developed to assist referrers in ensuring the appropriate children are referred to Shooting Star Chase, determined by their medical prognosis.

Definition of Acquired Neuro-disability

A non-progressive condition caused by an insult to the brain, acquired in utero, at birth, or some time after birth, resulting in a disorder of posture and movement. This will include young people with Cerebral Palsy, in addition to those who suffer an insult following illness such as meningitis, encephalitis or injury, including near drowning, head injury.

Acceptance Criteria

Young people with acquired neuro-disability who would be considered for Shooting Star Chase services would normally present with **most** of the following difficulties/complications and be considered unlikely to reach their 19th Birthday:

- Total body involvement with poor head control
- Severe scoliosis that compromises respiratory function
- Repeated chest infections requiring hospitalisation
- Ongoing need for oxygen therapy or ventilatory support
- Persistent Gastro-Oesophageal Reflux despite optimal treatment
- Poorly controlled seizures despite optimal treatment
- Repeated infections and/or blockages of VP/VA shunt
- Frequent, unplanned hospital admissions

Special considerations for babies and young children

Since the longer-term prognosis is not always clear for younger children with acquired neuro-disability, Shooting Star Chase will consider referrals for vulnerable babies and young children looking at the above criteria at the time of referral.

If it comes to light through our review process that a child no longer meets the criteria, services will later be withdrawn, following discussion with the family.

We respectfully request that referrers make families of babies and older children with acquired neuro-disability aware that this may be the case at the time of referral to Shooting Star Chase.

Bibliography

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