

Informed Consent Pathway

Frequent Asked Questions



This service has been available to residents in Somerset since June 2025 and we have put together some of the questions we have been asked most frequently. If your questions aren't answered here, then we would love to hear from you. Drop us an email to somicb.equality@nhs.net and we'll get back to you.

Who is providing this service?

NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board is working with WellBN in Brighton. WellBN is a GP practice providing NHS services and has a well-established gender clinic. If you need blood tests as part of your treatment, we have partnered with Somerset-Wide Integrated Sexual Health Service (SWISH) who offer clinics across the county where you can have your bloods taken.

Do I need to travel to Brighton?

No. All consultations are done remotely. If you are receiving any prescriptions from WellBN, these are sent to a pharmacy in Somerset that you nominate.

How much does it cost?

Access to WellBN's Informed Consent Pathway is funded by us. The only costs to you will be expected to pay are for normal transport costs to attend blood test appointments in Somerset. Also, if you normally pay for prescriptions, you will continue to pay for these if you are prescribed any medication by WellBN.

Do I need to use WellBN for all my health needs?

No. You will continue to use your local GP in Somerset for all other health needs that you might have. If WellBN do anything "clinical", for example prescribing of hormones, they will let your GP know to ensure your medical records are kept up to date.

How old do I have to be to access hormone treatments?

You can be referred to WellBN from the age of 16, however WellBN will not prescribe any hormone treatments until you reach 18.

Can I still access local gender affirming services in Somerset?

If you are looking to access other services such as Speech and Language Therapy (SALT), fertility preservation treatments, etc., these are still available to you in Somerset. WellBN or your local GP can support you in accessing these services.

Do I need to have a diagnosis of gender dysphoria?

No. WellBN does not require any diagnoses in order to access their services.

Do I need to have an assessment for neurodivergence, e.g. autism, ADHD, etc.?

No. As part of the referral process, WellBN will ensure that you are fully informed in order to make a decision about using this service.