

Health content for Local Offer/ Provision Document

Children's Speech and Language Therapy

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Acting Speech and Language Therapy Managers - TBC

What does your service do?

The Croydon Children's Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) service provide speech, language, communication and eating and drinking support, for children and young people in the borough of Croydon, from birth to their 19th birthday.

There are 5 pathways that can be accessed:

- Early Years
- Stammering
- Deafness
- Eating ,Drinking and Swallowing Difficulties

The service also completes statutory SLT Education and Health Care Plan Assessments when requested to do so by the Local Authority.

To access the service, children and young people must have a Croydon address and/or are registered with a Croydon GP.

Universal resources

- Information about the Children's SLT may be found here: [A to Z of services | Croydon Health Services NHS Trust](#) (need to amend)
- Information about Chatterbox sessions may be found here: [Children, young people and families support directory | Croydon Council](#) (liz and pooja)
- Information about the Local Education Authority and schools may be found here: [Schools and education | Croydon Council](#) (still says chs are doing special schools)
- Information for parents and carers about speech, language and communication for children may be found here: <https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/help-for-families/>
- Information about children who stammer may be found here: <https://michaelpalincentreforstammering.org/about-stammering/>
- Information about The South Thames Cleft Palate Service may be found here: [Cleft services | Evelina London](#)

Early Years Service

Who is this service for?

Children up to the age of 5 (or the term before starting reception at school), who have/may have speech, language or communication difficulties.

If your child has reached the term before starting reception; please contact the school SENCO to discuss any concerns about your child's speech/language/communication difficulties once your child's school place is confirmed.

How to access this service?

Parent and carers should attend Chatterbox groups, with their child. Chatterbox are drop-in sessions that run at various locations across the borough on a weekly basis.

By attending Chatterbox, you will access appropriate support, advice and activities to support your child's communication skills at a targeted level. Targeted support is aimed at children and young people who have a communication need and require some support to develop their speech, language and communication, but the impact of these needs can be met by key people in their environment (e.g. parents/carers/setting staff).

At Chatterbox, you can speak to a member of the Speech and Language Therapy Team, who can work with you to support your child's communication development and will decide whether a specialist assessment is required.

What to expect

Early Years Service



Stammering

Who is this service for?

Children and young people from the term before starting school (Reception) to 19th birthday, who have a stammer or cluttering (a speech pattern that is perceived as being too fast, too irregular or jerky, or both).

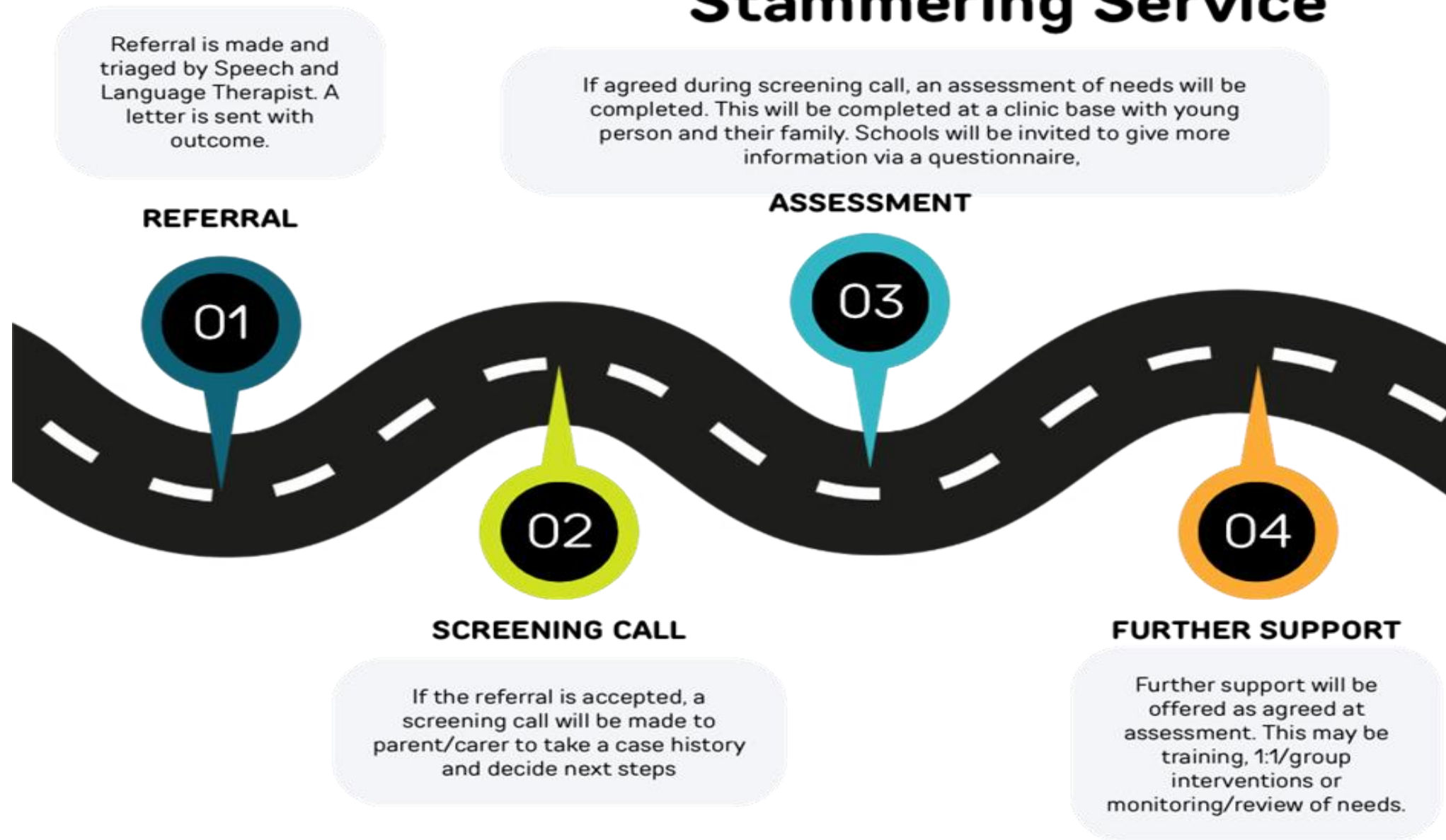
Who can make a referral?

We accept self-referrals/parents/carers and referrals made by education or other professionals (such as GP, Paediatricians, Social Workers etc.).

To refer your child to receive support for Stammering, please contact: ch-tr.sltcroydonchildren@nhs.net, 0208 714 2594 who can provide a referral form.

What to expect

Stammering Service



Deafness

Who is this service for?

Children and young people aged 0 to 19 years old, who have a permanent deafness. For school-aged children, communication difficulties associated with deafness must be their primary need.

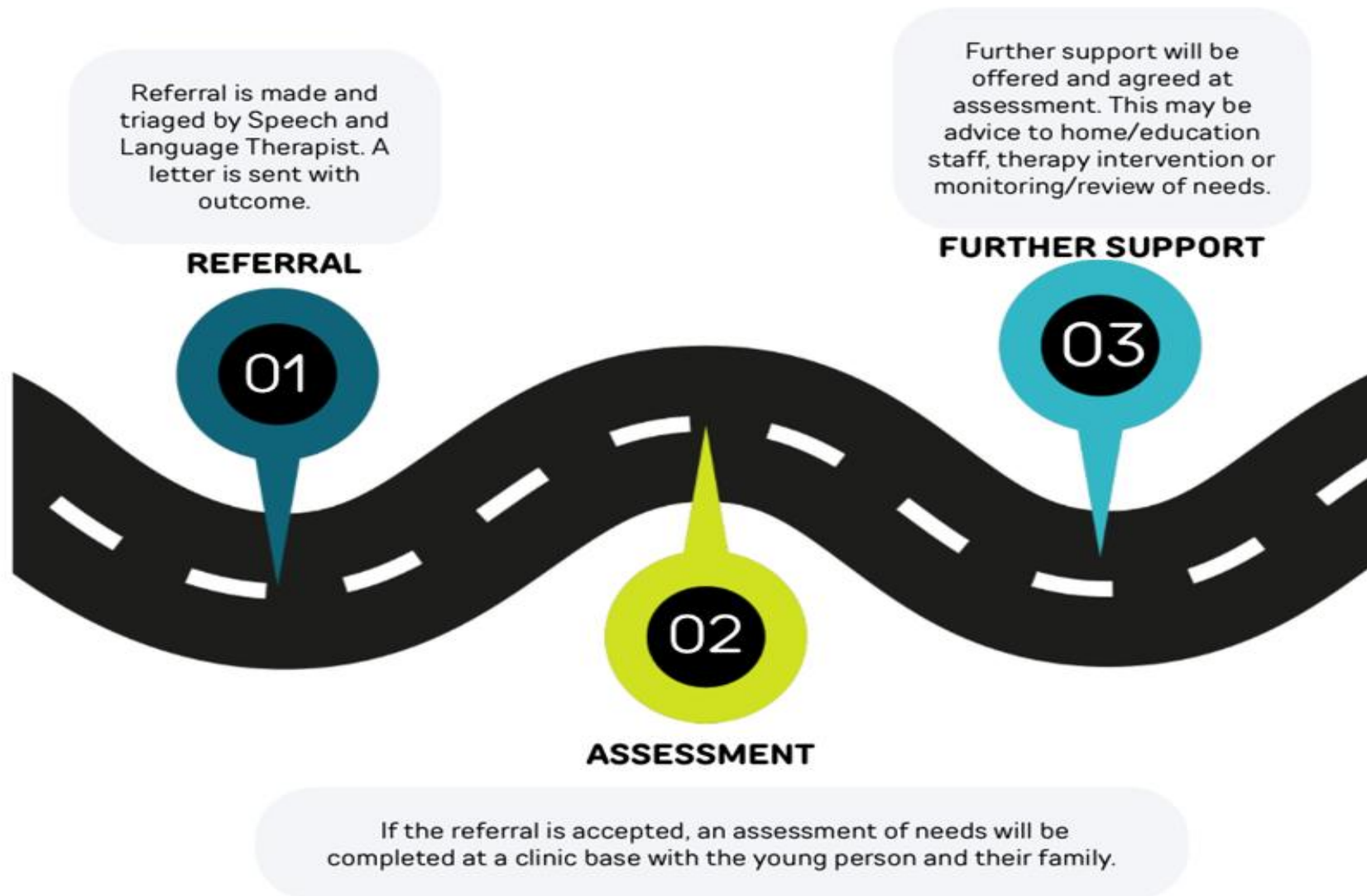
Who can make a referral?

We accept self-referrals/parents/carers and referrals made by education or other professionals (such as Teachers of the Deaf, Audiologists, GP, Paediatricians, Social Workers).

To refer your child to receive support for communication difficulties associated with deafness, please please contact: ch-tr.sltcroydonchildren@nhs.net , 0208 714 2594 who can provide a referral form.

What to expect

Deafness Service



Eating, Drinking and Swallowing Difficulties

Who is this service for?

Babies, children and young people (0-19 years) who present with signs of aspiration when eating and drinking, in addition to respiratory health concerns/ recurrent chest infections.

Children presenting with overt signs of aspiration who have an underlying diagnosis that increases vulnerability to dysphagia (e.g. prematurity, cardiac, cerebral palsy, epilepsy etc.)

Children experiencing poor respiratory health where silent aspiration is suspected or confirmed by their medical team.

Children who currently have a feeding tube and are showing readiness for weaning, where there have been previous concerns regarding aspiration, but have the potential to develop some oral skills or wean off their tube

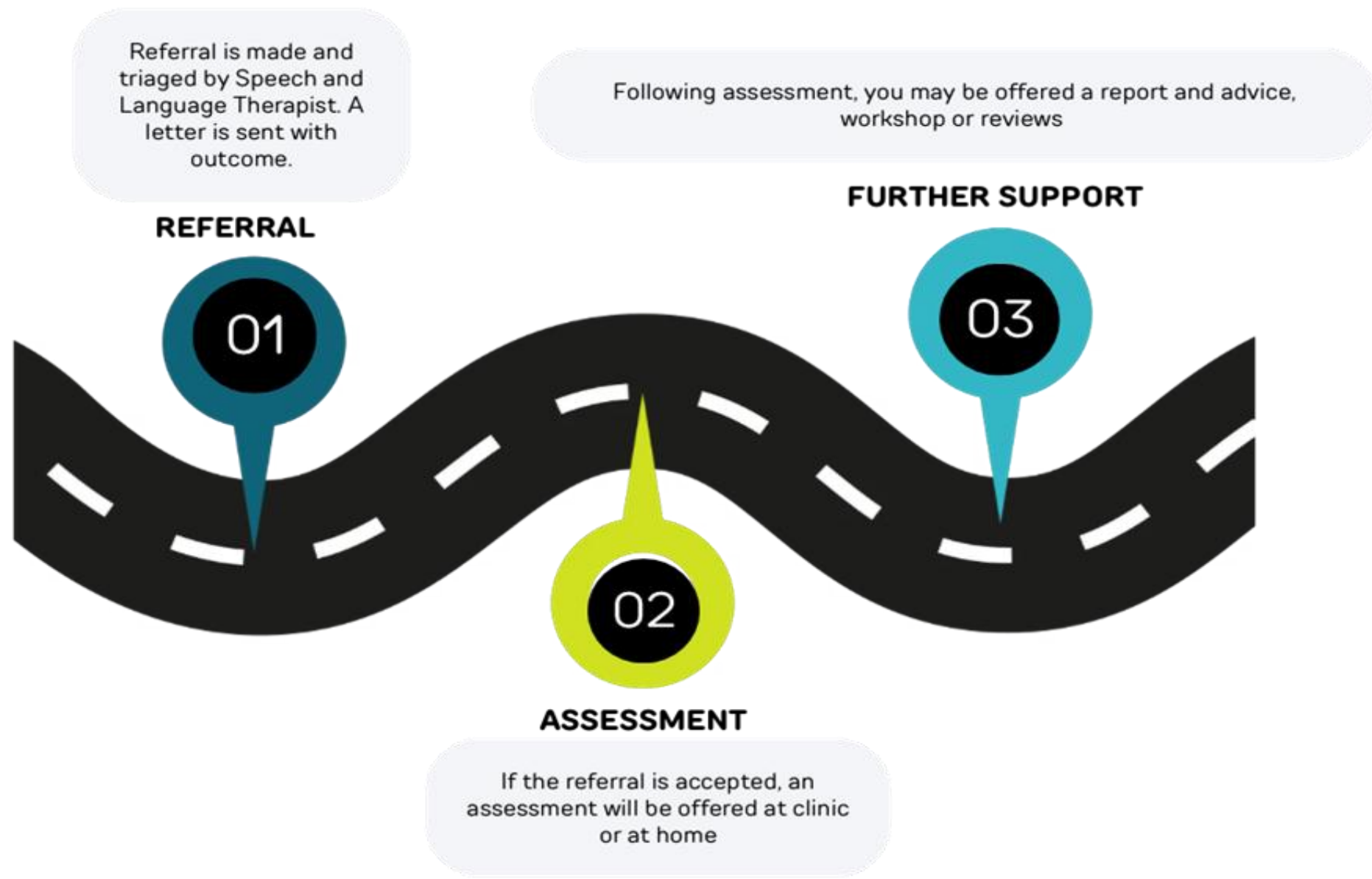
Aspiration is having difficulty swallowing, which results in food or liquids going "down the wrong pipe" into your airway and lungs instead of your stomach.

Who can make a referral?

We accept self-referrals/parents/carers and referrals made by education or other professionals (such as GPs, Paediatricians, Early Years Practitioners and SLTs in other hospitals/boroughs). For a referral form, please contact: ch-tr.sltcroydonchildren@nhs.net , 0208 714 2594

What to expect

Eating, Drinking and Swallowing Service



Additional Information....

- Please bring any relevant reports or written information from other professionals that are involved with your child. This includes from their education setting, social care and other health professionals.
- If a child is not brought to a booked appointment without letting the department know in advance, your child/young person will be discharged from the Speech and Language Therapy service.