Equity of Access: policy and practice

Key points:
• Be aware of diagnostic overshadowing
• Pay attention to health passports
• Listen to parents/carers
• Make Reasonable Adjustments
• Communication
• Understanding behavioural responses to illness/pain/discomfort
• Mental Capacity Act
• Ask for specialist support and advice if necessary
• Mental wellbeing and emotional distress

‘Strong reason to suspect people with learning disabilities may be significantly impacted by the coronavirus’

‘We should seek the best local solutions’
Working to co-produce easy read and other accessible versions of helpful resources, including:

Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice on staying at home
March 2020

COVID-19 is a new illness. Lots of people call it coronavirus.
It can affect your lungs and your breathing.

To stop coronavirus spreading people are being asked to stay at home as much as possible.

This guide is about what you can do to be ready to stay at home.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Guidance on protecting people most likely to get very poorly from coronavirus (shielding)
March 2020

COVID-19 is a new illness. Lots of people call it coronavirus.
It can affect your lungs and your breathing.

To stop coronavirus spreading we all have to change how we spend our time and how we do things.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Looking after your feelings and your body
March 2020

COVID-19 is a new illness. Lots of people call it coronavirus.
It can affect your lungs and your breathing.

To stop coronavirus spreading we all have to change how we spend our time and how we do things.
Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to ensure that there is clarity in relation to the use of the Clinical Frailty Scale (CFS) and the use of do not attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation (DNACPR) with younger patients, those with a stable long term physical need, learning disability or autism.

In May 2019 the National Medical Director, Professor Stephen Powis, wrote with regard to Learning disability, death certification and DNACPR orders, emphasising that:

"The terms 'learning disability' and 'Down's syndrome' should never be a reason for issuing a DNACPR order or be used to describe the underlying, or only, cause of death. Learning disabilities are not fatal conditions."

Earlier this week NICE issued rapid guidance on admission to hospital and treatment for people with learning disabilities and/or autism. It is imperative that decisions regarding appropriateness of admission to hospital and for assessment and treatment for people with learning disabilities and/or autism are made on an individual basis and in consultation with their family and for paid carers. Taking into account the person's usual physical health, the severity of any co-existing conditions and their frailty at the time of examination. Treatment decisions should not be made on the basis of the presence of learning disability and/or autism alone.

Claire Murdock
National Director for Mental Health, NHS England and NHS Improvement

Dr Roger Banks
National Clinical Director - Learning Disability and Autism
NHS England and NHS Improvement

Dr Nikki Karani
Medical Director for Primary Care
NHS England and NHS Improvement
Key updates

• Social Care Guidance
• Govt update on exercising in open spaces
• Updated Visiting guidance
• Working to restore critical mental health services
• Focus on supporting Covid-19+ patients in inpatient settings
• PPE (lead by DHSC)
• EoLC – psychological support, pain management, visiting arrangements
• Continued focus on key elements of the LTP:
  • Reducing reliance on inpatient care
    • Importance of CTRs/CETRs
    • Focus on recent discharges
  • LeDeR Review – refreshed planning
  • Annual Health Checks – in discussion with primary care colleagues
  • Other LTP deliverables e.g. key workers, Autism annual health checks
• Please send issues and concerns that you think need to come to the attention of NHS England to: england.mhldaintaidentresponse@nhs.net and/or england.learning.disability@nhs.net

• Weekly webinar with health and social care stakeholders – to understand issues and work in collaboration

• Online Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism COVID-19 Cell Futures Collaborative platform - enables partners to raise concerns, share solutions, challenges and resources. To join please go to: https://future.nhs.uk/MHLDAcovid19/grouphome