

# Patients with a learning disability: Care within hospital

An information guide



# **Patients with a learning disability: Care within hospital**

## **Nursing and carer agreement**

### **Introduction**

This information has been developed to help assist hospital staff, family members with caring responsibilities and paid carers to understand each other's responsibilities when looking after patients with specific and complex needs associated with learning disability. It has been developed to ensure that levels of communication are maintained throughout the patient's stay.

It is clear that all patients have different needs with regards to personal care, communication, administration of medication and many other activities of daily living, and that carers accompanying patients also have legal, professional and physical limits to the level of care that they are able to provide.

The following agreement template has been developed to ensure that ward staff and carers are fully aware of each other's responsibilities and expectations in meeting the needs of the patient.

Please take time to discuss all aspects of care that the patient will require whilst in hospital and ensure that it has been discussed with, and mutually agreed by, all relevant parties. Please complete the checklist and ensure that all ward staff and carers are aware of the agreement.

## General

1. What level of support will the patient require? (e.g. one-to-one care and for how many hours?)
  
2. Who will be contributing to this support (e.g. family, carers, ward staff?)
  
3. Where carers are required, who will pay for/arrange cover? (e.g. family, hospital, social care)
  
4. Does the patient require nursing in a side ward? Y/N
  
5. Have the carers/family been shown (tick as appropriate):
  - Toilet facilities
  - Fire exits
  - Fire procedures
  - Canteen/drinks machine
  
6. What are the communication and cover arrangements (where necessary) for carer meal and comfort breaks?
  
7. Have the carers been informed of ward round times and days?

## **Responsibilities**

Commence the Learning Disability and Autism care plan and ensure the person's Traffic Light Hospital Passport has been completed by the people who know them best and a copy put in their hospital notes. This will identify any specific needs and any reasonable adjustments required.

Please circle as appropriate

### **1. Hygiene**

Hospital                      Family      Paid carers                      Combination

Comments:

### **2. Moving and handling**

Hospital                      Family      Paid carers                      Combination

Comments:

### **3. Feeding**

Hospital                      Family      Paid carers                      Combination

Comments:

#### **4. Toileting**

Hospital                      Family      Paid carers                      Combination

Comments:

#### **5. Administration of medication**

Hospital                      Family      Paid carers                      Combination

Comments:

#### **6. Escort within hospital**

Hospital                      Family      Paid carers                      Combination

Comments:

#### **7. Preparation for theatre/investigations**

Hospital                      Family      Paid carers                      Combination

Comments:

**8. Is an interpreter (including sign language) required? (yes/no)**

Comments:

**9. Who are the people closest to the patient to contact regarding best interest decisions (where the patients lacks capacity to make the decision for themselves)?**

Comments:

**10. Is an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate ( IMCA) required?**

Comments:

Nurse\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Print\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Carer\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Print\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

**Information sharing and communication**

In the event that the ward staff, carers or family members have any concerns about any aspect of care or individual responsibilities, they should discuss these with the ward manager or deputy. In the event that any differences cannot be resolved at ward level, then the divisional nurse manager (or manager on call out-of-hours) should be contacted.

For further information and advice, please contact:

The Learning Disability Liaison Nurse Service - 0161 918 4370 (internal 44370) or 0161 922 3479 (internal 43479)

**If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service**

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

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Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

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**For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897**

**For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service**

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