

Covid Vaccination Reasonable Adjustments Case Study

Male Client, 22 years old, lives in Northumberland with 2:1 support at all times.

Diagnosis of a severe learning disability, autism spectrum disorder, hyperkinetic disorder and pica.

Client can present with highly challenging behaviour with aggression towards property, self and others.

Client has no verbal communication skills but use a range of communication strategies and techniques e.g. signing, symbols and VOCA.

Client is unable to access primary health care settings due to high levels of anxiety which increase physical aggression.

Client was a priority for having a Covid vaccination. However, client has a needle phobia and will not tolerate medical procedures. Attempts had been made to administer at GP surgery and were not successful.

All previous vaccinations, blood sampling, invasive medical interventions/ treatment the client has required sedation; for dental work he required a general anaesthetic.

Completion of MC1 and MC2 were completed as vaccine would be administered in client's best interests.

Vaccination Plan:

The community Learning Disability Nurse (CLDN) was to administer the vaccine in the client's home environment. Distraction technique, relaxant, and pain relief were to be utilised. The client had his blood pressure monitored on a regular basis and would readily allow this to be done, he would also allow staff to apply cream to his skin on a regular basis. These interventions were to be utilised as distractions for the client.

Diazepam 2mg and the EMLA cream were prescribed by the GP to support the client to be relaxed and pain free.

The CLDN nurse collected the vaccination from the GP surgery, he then contacted the client's care team who would begin preparations with the client. Staff then administered the medication and applied the Emla cream to the potential injection sites.

The nurse arrived at the property and whilst the client was showing the nurse how he has his blood pressure done the vaccination was safely delivered in the client's other arm, were the Emla cream had been applied.

Extended observations were required to monitor for adverse side effects after vaccination and the nurse remained in the property for the required period afterwards.

What worked well?

MDT all worked well with the client at the heart of everything.

First Covid vaccination was completed with no adverse effects for the client.

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