

Reasonable Adjustments Covid Vaccination Case Study

Male client, 29 years old, lives with father in his own home in Northumberland.

Diagnosis of autism and Rubenstein Taybi Syndrome. Due to demanding behaviours and complex autism, requires a high level of stimulation and attention. Client was a priority for having the Covid Vaccination. Client has a fear of needles.

Client's father was pushing to have his son protected as a matter of urgency and numerous attempts were made by him to take his son to GP Covid clinics, vaccination centres, different vaccination clinics all of which were unsuccessful. MDT discussions were held around further options available and ways forward.

Initial advice to family; advice given over the telephone around desensitisation, advice about having the involvement of a community learning disability nurse and having both Covid and flu vaccinations in the client's home at a time convenient to the family by someone who was familiar with client's who required longer times to receive vaccine and had an awareness of reasonable adjustments that could be explored with the client and his family.

This was attempted by Community Learning Disability Nurse but was unsuccessful. The nurse spent a number of hours with the client and distractions such as interest boards, music, arm cover/ shield around arm, mobile phone, gaming tablet were used. The client was very keen to have the vaccination but was unable to allow it to be administered.

Further discussion was held between the nurse and the GP and an attempt to vaccinate the client whilst he sat in the car was attempted by the GP, again unsuccessful.

Further discussion was held and additional medication support was suggested along with a virtual reality headset. The GP also suggested the use of Emla cream. The GP then agreed to try once again utilising Emla cream, virtual reality headset and some relaxant medication. This proved highly successful and the client managed to have his covid vaccination successfully administered.

This technique was used for his second vaccination and consequent booster.

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