

Learning Disability and or Autism Prevention of Adult Not Brought Secondary Care Top Tips Guide

Health services have tried and continue to understand and reduce the number of appointments that are unattended. In some circumstances people may choose not to attend health appointments and discontinue contact from health services. In other circumstances people rely on family or care providers to bring them to appointments.

Outlined in the **Learning Disability Mortality Review** Programme people with a learning disability and or autism are dying on average 24 years sooner than that of the general population of an amenable cause. They face greater health inequalities therefore timely and good access to health appointments is vital to support them well.

Adults without capacity or capability cannot bring themselves to appointments. Adults with a learning disability and or autistic people may need reasonable adjustments in order to access health appointments, to have a positive experience and complete any procedures or investigations. In the North East North Cumbria ICB we have developed a Prevention of Adult Not Brought Strategy. More information about the strategy can be found at: www.necdnetwork.co.uk/work-programmes/reasonableadjustments/panb

To support the strategy, we have developed this quick top tip guide to support secondary care.



1. **Know your patients** - All staff need to be aware of adults with a learning disability and or autism who rely on others to be brought to their health appointments. Check clinical systems for learning disability or reasonable adjustment flag.



2. **Coding** - READ and SNOMED codes have now been developed 'adult not brought to appointment' please ensure those who rely on others to be brought to health appointment are appropriately coded in clinical systems and to out of hours of providers.



3. **Supporting tools** - A range of tools have been developed in the strategy to support primary care around patients who are not brought to appointments. Check them out at www.necdnetwork.co.uk



4. **Communication is key** - All staff need to be aware of their responsibility to provide reasonable adjustments and accessible information to support people with a learning disability and or autistic people, their families and carers.



5. **Opportunities** - Maximise opportunities by making every appointment high value (what opportunities can be incorporated in to one appointment).



6. **Understanding carers' needs** - Consider the role of their carer / supporter do they understand the information being presented to them? What are their needs and support?



7. **Other services** - Consider liaison with multiple professionals and support services. Including your learning disability acute liaison nurse.



8. **Flagging** - When making referrals ensure reasonable adjustments and communication needs are flagged and documented. Identify the reasonable adjustment, write it down, meet the need and share it!



9. **Staff awareness** - Ensure all staff are sighted on the learning disability prevention of adult not brought strategy.



10. **Training** - Ensure all staff have had learning disability and autism awareness training.