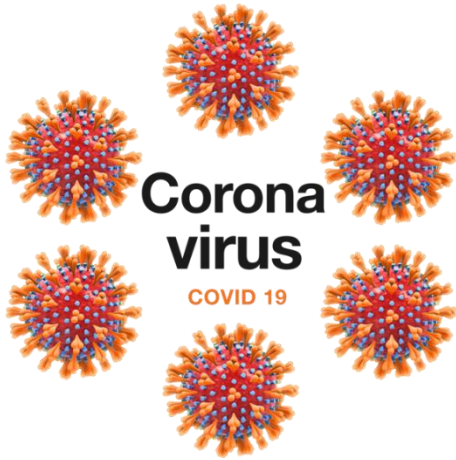



Important advice to staff supporting people with a learning disability or autistic people

Clinical guide for staff supporting patients with a learning disability, autism or both during the coronavirus pandemic

 <p>Corona virus COVID 19</p>	<p>COVID-19 is a new illness. Lots of people call it Coronavirus.</p> <p>It can affect your lungs and your breathing.</p>
 <p>A patient lying in a hospital bed with an oxygen mask. Below the bed is a model of an NHS Hospital building.</p>	<p>There are some people who are very ill with coronavirus</p> <p>They are being looked after in hospital by the NHS</p>



This is making hospitals very busy but the NHS wants to keep everyone safe.

It is really important that everyone gets all of the right care and treatment they need at this time

Lots more staff, including doctors, and volunteers are starting to work in the NHS to help make this happen.

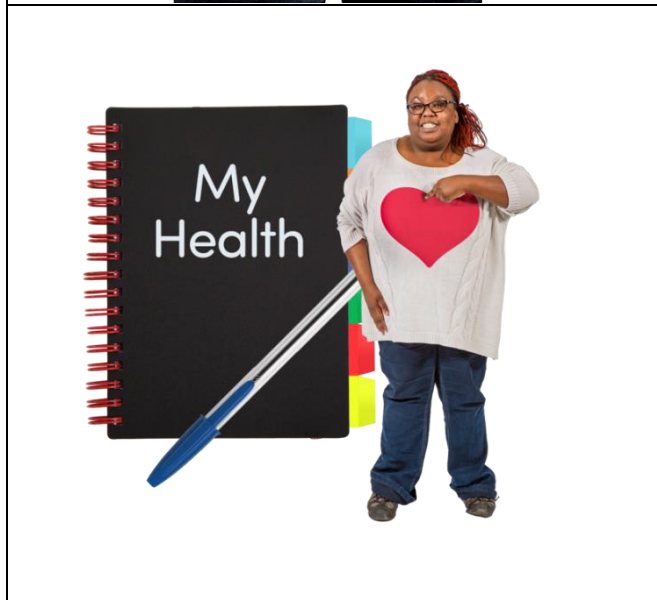


The NHS has written a document to help all staff know more about supporting people with a learning disability or autistic people.



1. Staff should make sure they know the difference between your illness and your learning disability or autism

This is to make sure you get the right treatment for your illness





2. Staff must follow the information on your hospital passport (if you have one)



3. Staff should listen to you and your family and any carers who know you well

 <p>A woman with glasses and a red headband is seated in a wheelchair. She has a speech bubble above her head that says "I need ...". To her right is a clock with a blue segment. Further right is a sign that says "easy read" with icons of people and horizontal lines representing text.</p>	<p>4. The law says that staff must make any changes you need to make sure you get the right care and support.</p> <p>This is called making reasonable adjustments</p>
 <p>A woman with long dark hair is sitting and talking to a man in a plaid shirt who is also sitting. A speech bubble between them says "Easy words".</p>	<p>5. Staff should find out the best way to communicate with you</p> <p>They should use your hospital communication passport if you have one)</p> <p>They should not use jargon or long words</p>
 <p>A woman with long brown hair is wearing a light blue t-shirt with the word "Dandelions" written on it. She has a pained expression and is holding her right hand to her forehead.</p>	<p>6. Staff need to make sure they know what you do when you are in pain or uncomfortable.</p> <p>They should know how this is different from how you are normally</p>

 <p>The image shows the Mental Capacity Act logo, which features the Royal Coat of Arms and the text 'Mental Capacity Act'. Below the logo, a man in a red shirt is seated in a blue wheelchair, and a staff member in a dark shirt is standing next to him, holding his hand in a supportive gesture.</p>	<p>7. Staff must involve you in all decisions about your care or treatment unless it is clear that you cannot do this.</p> <p>They must follow the law called the mental capacity act</p>
 <p>The image shows a woman with dark hair, wearing a dark top, sitting at a desk in an office or clinical setting. She is talking on a telephone. On the desk in front of her are a computer monitor, a keyboard, and a stethoscope.</p>	<p>8. Staff should ask for help from other doctors if they need it</p> <p>This includes working with a learning disability liaison nurse if there is one in the hospital</p>



9. Staff should make sure that they support you in the right way if you are upset or scared



They should help you stay calm and relaxed



All of these are things you should expect from all health staff (including doctors)