

Case study from the Northern England Clinical Networks: Dementia and Intellectual Disability Disorder Guide for GPs

Background

Conversations between regional networks identified a need for simple information aimed at primary care to improve knowledge about and treatment of people with Intellectual Disability Disorder (IDD) with regards to dementia. IDD is often referred to as learning disabilities. Individuals with IDD experience onset of the ageing process earlier than the general population. In addition, age is the strongest risk factor for dementia so there is a need to mitigate the increased risk. The idea was born to produce a short and accessible guide for general practitioners.

Producing the guide

The Mental Health and Dementia Network enlisted help from experts known to the Network, neighbouring clinical networks and via NHS England nationally. Dr Hanney agreed to lead on researching the content for the guide. The Network was able to help negotiate with her employer (Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS FT) to create some time in her job plan to conduct this research.

The result was a lengthy document, so the process of making it accessible to busy GPs started by shortening it considerably. Clinical Network GP Dementia Lead Dr Jebur edited and customised the guide for GPs using her understanding of how much attention they might typically have to give. The result was a document comprising just two sides of A4 paper, with an easy to follow format.

Next steps

Feedback was sought from the network of people already established through the initial idea and document development. After a process of refinement, the finished guide was distributed to all GP practices in the Clinical Network footprint and to all clinical networks across the country. The completed document is available on the NECN's Mental Health and Dementia Network webpage. The next step is further refinement into a single page document to be used as part of a suite of single page guides, all about particular key themes related to dementia.

Contact



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