

Dear Kent and Medway General Practices,

People with Learning Disabilities and people with Autism

Dear colleagues,

Firstly, can I say how hugely appreciated your hard work and the difference you are making in our response to the current pandemic is. As you may be aware there has been much guidance and advice recently in relation to COVID19. I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight important speciality guidance on the active management and support people with a learning disability, autism or both during the coronavirus pandemic which can be found here: [click here](#)

With support from the Community Learning Disability Team, this letter highlights key information (at this time), and sets out the guidance with regards to ensuring equality of access to healthcare for people with learning disabilities and people with autism across Kent and Medway.

DNACPR: You may have seen last week, NHS England and Improvement issued a letter about the alleged application of DNAR (DNACPR), it should be read in conjunction with this more recent letter signed by Professor Stephen Powis, National Medical Director and Ruth May, Chief Nursing Officer –NHS England and Improvement. The letter makes explicit that; *"The terms "learning disability" and "Down's syndrome" should never be a reason for issuing a DNACPR order, or be used to describe the underlying, or only, cause of death ... Learning disabilities are not fatal conditions."* The [full letter is here](#).

COVID Hospital Passports: Although some of the young people and adults you support will already have hospital passports – I wanted to share the updated COVID 19 Hospital passport that has been created to ensure medical staff can access the information they need quickly. [You can access the passport here](#)

Fast Track Mortality Reviews: Kent and Medway LeDer process has taken the decision to complete fast track COVID19 reviews for any deaths that occur in hospital and in the community, these include confirmed and suspected COVID19. These fast track reviews will be used to inform local action plans and will feed into the main LeDer review to translate learning into practice swiftly. It is important that the LeDer notifications are submitted as soon as possible after death. [Report a death here](#)

Safeguarding considerations: Safeguarding vigilance remains vital in light of the pandemic. The key is that all professionals are encouraged to think creatively on how best to secure safe and best practice in these areas.

MCA COVID update: There is an important update [here](#) – the update contains clarity over where life-saving treatment is being provided, including for the treatment of COVID-19, then the person will not be deprived of liberty as long as the treatment is the same as would normally be given to any person without a mental disorder. The DoLS will therefore not apply.

Kent and Medway EoLC COVID 19 Response Website: We now have the K+M EoLC COVID -19 response website up and running. Its hosted as a sub page of the ACCG referral support tool, there is a EoLC COVID-19 resource located there. There will be useful resources for you to access and there will be increasing learning disability and autism resources contained within this: <http://ashford.referralsupport.co.uk/referral/end-of-life-care-resources-covid-19/>

Below are some of the key resources:

IRISi guide for GP teams on managing DVA on phone /video consultations, [view here](#)

The latest Governmental FAQ's on 'What you can and can't do' during the Coronavirus outbreak acknowledges that some people (including people with a learning disability, autism or both) may need more than one outing per day to maintain their wellbeing and reduce risks and that others may require more than one person with them (e.g. those requiring 2:1 support).

In addition, your local community learning disability service is here to help you and is proactively supporting people with an LD and their networks at this time. Ensuring consistent contact by a member of the LD alliance (KCC, KCHFT or KMPT) to people who are vulnerable due to circumstances, underlying health conditions or are in hospital requiring support to be discharged home. Please do not hesitate to contact them to gain support with your patients. Kent telephone number: 0300 1234 195 or kentchft.lidsref@nhs.net

Yours faithfully,

R. Sakel

Rezina Sakel

GP Clinical Lead for Learning Disability and Autism

Resources for professionals, carers, and people with learning disabilities and autism

COVID 19 Hospital Passport

<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Hospital-passport-summary-COVID-19-v2-FINAL.docx>

NHSE & I resources (including workforce clinical speciality guide etc)

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/community-social-care-ambulance/mental-health/>

Other resources

https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/what-we-do/keeping-informed-and-in-touch-during-coronavirus/resources-that-can-help/?fbclid=IwAR1oeQq972IPu7pWigxXQsiyAC09Q8QOSqbkyZ3I5IMUcPoZ5Ovz_nLnop4

https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/C0030_Visitor-Guidance_8-April-2020.pdf

Visitor guidance https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/C0030_Visitor-Guidance_8-April-2020.pdf

DNA CPR Guidance <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/04/C0166-Letter-DNACPR.pdf>

Update on MCA https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-looking-after-people-who-lack-mental-capacity?utm_source=a4a3d322-fbe7-424e-bc47-ed85741782a8&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

FAQ what you can or cant do – Q15 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

NHSE resources (workforce guidance clinical speciality guide etc)

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/community-social-care-ambulance/mental-health/>

LD NHS Futures platform <https://future.nhs.uk/MHLDAcovid19/grouphome>