

Dear Primary Care colleagues,

21st April 2020

Re Patients with Learning Disabilities, Covid-19 and potential admissions into hospital

Please encourage people with learning disabilities to complete a Hospital Passport.

A template can be downloaded from:

<https://www.southernhealth.nhs.uk/services/learning-disabilities/useful-information/health-information/coronavirus-covid-19/>

In response to Coronavirus the Hampshire Community Learning Disability Teams are keen for **everyone with a Learning Disability to have a completed Hospital Passport**, in the event of needing to be admitted to hospital with the virus. Sometimes the **needs of people with Learning Disabilities are misunderstood in an acute clinical setting** and a way to overcome this is by having an **individual Hospital Passport**. We want to prepare people with Learning Disabilities as much as possible if they contract the virus. This is because the leading cause of death in people with Learning Disabilities is **respiratory disease**.

Hospital Passport (also known as All About Me) is a nationally recognised booklet for adults and children with Learning Disabilities. It contains valuable, key information for health professionals about the patient when providing care. The benefits of the Hospital Passport are that it contains the subtlest of **details** about the **patient's communication, pain presentation and behaviour** and without this level of information **deterioration in health can be missed**. We advise patients and/or carers complete the passport, **keeping a paper copy at home or on them** should they need to access the hospital.

People who have accessed our Community Learning Disability Teams would have been encouraged to complete Hospital Passports already. However, not everyone with a Learning Disability has accessed our service. Therefore we ask you as a surgery to **check all patients who are on your Learning Disability register** whether they have a **completed Hospital Passport**. If they do have one is it easily located if they need to be admitted to hospital due to Coronavirus. We **do not expect practice staff** to fill the Hospital Passport in but would be grateful if staff could **share/forward/send blank copies** of the passport to patients who do not have one. Alternatively, please feel free to share relevant links with carers where Hospital Passport templates can be downloaded from.

Completed copies of the Hospital Passport can also be shared with primary care where appropriate and uploaded on the patients' medical notes. It provides a valuable baseline on the patients' health, skills, communication and much more.

Developed by the Strategic Health Facilitation team April 2020.

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If you would like to **discuss or share** a copy of a Hospital Passport with **Learning Disability Hospital Liaison team at Hampshire Hospitals**, please contact **Beth Lyon** on 01256 319892 or email: beth.lyon@nhs.net. (A link to HHFT page is further below)

We advise patients with Learning Disabilities and/ or their carers to always complete a Hospital Passport with as much detail as possible.

If you have any questions relating to the Learning Disability Hospital Passport please do not hesitate to contact the Community Learning Disability Health Team or myself.

Thank you for your help.

Yours Sincerely



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Useful links

<https://www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/patients-visitors/health-information-point-hip/information-patients-learning-disabilities>

For easy read information on the Corona virus for patients with Learning Disabilities please access our web page <https://www.southernhealth.nhs.uk/services/learning-disabilities/useful-information/health-information/coronavirus-covid-19/>

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