

**Covid 19 – People with Learning Disabilities and their carers- FAQ**



**York Teaching Hospital**  
NHS Foundation Trust

**Can I accompany a person with learning disabilities to the Emergency Department?**

Should a person with a learning disability and Coronavirus symptoms need to come to the Emergency department it would be acceptable for their carer or family member to support them for this initial assessment until they are admitted onto the ward. (As long as they are wearing hospital protective clothing).

**What happens if the person is to be admitted?**

Once the person has been transferred to the ward it would be the preferred option that the carer then hand over all information about the person and leave, with the ward providing all care needs until the person is discharged.

**I am concerned that the person will be anxious without a familiar carer.**

We are aware that there are patients who have needs / anxiety led behaviours which may require a familiar carer or family member provide their support. Each patient's needs will be discussed with the admitting nurse and reasonable adjustment will be developed in conjunction with one of the LD Liaison Nurses to ensure that the hospital journey is made as easy as possible.

**If the person needs enhanced supervision (1:1) can this be provided by familiar care staff/family?**

We have to comply with infection control measures and part of this would be using existing staff to take over enhanced supervision. However each patient's needs will be discussed with family/carers and where safe and possible reasonable adjustments will be made.

**Should the person require support from a family member on the ward will you be able to accommodate them in the same way that we are stating for a child?**

Again the risks (and vulnerability factors for the family member/carer) will be considered as they are with parents of children.

**If the patient requires support from a familiar care provider carer how will the trust fund this –given the local authority and commissioners are unlikely to support this?**

Each patient's needs will be discussed with carers/family members throughout the hospital journey. In this uncertain time however we cannot promise that familiar carers will be funded if the risk of infection outweighs other outcomes. However where a person clearly is unable to tolerate care delivery from unfamiliar carers all reasonable adjustments will be explored to ensure that the patient receives the care they need in the way they need it.

**I have a question which is NOT on this sheet?**

### **Contact The learning disability liaison nurses**

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