

**Questions and Answer Session with the Health Professionals
Thursday 9th April 2020**

Q1. Will Family Carers be able to accompany young adults/children with learning disabilities and/or autism into hospital?

- Stephanie Ross, Learning Disability Liaison Nurse for OUH was able to confirm that the role of the Family Carer is recognised as important and viewed differently to a visitor. Consequently, as an advocate for the person they are allowed and not excluded and there have been some carers that have stayed overnight.
- The LD team (Stephanie Ross, Funmi Dasaolu, and Kim Woolnough) can be contacted for support with assistance/advice on **TEL: 01865 234565** or learning.disability@ouh.nhs.uk
Caroline Heason – Adult Safeguarding Lead is also available. **TEL: 01865 234954**
Caroline.Heason@ouh.nhs.uk
- They are not a 24-hour service but offered reassurance that most professionals will be aware of the protocol to include carers. If there are issues, they advocated that family carers challenge and escalate to ensure that needs are met and to contact them if needed.
- For ICU there are exceptions depending on medical condition. Again, the blanket rule of not allowing visitors in, doesn't apply to carers but the need versus the medical situation will require discussion and evaluation. There was reassurance that the ICU currently has a special nurse whose specific roll is to liaise with families
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Q2. What happens if parents and/or family carers go in to hospital?

- Kirsten Prance from OH LD Team advised that Social Cares first priority for the wellbeing of the person would be to try and locate them with someone they know (families/friends/another carer).
- She emphasised that a vulnerable person would never be placed at risk.
- Gail Hanrahan recommended that the Family Carer fill in a Planning for Emergencies Form (attached) as well as having a discussion with other family member/friends/carers to plan in case of an emergency.
- It was also recommended that family carers have a packed bag ready in case of hospital admittance for themselves or for their family member.

Q3. What is happening about other surgery/hospital treatment currently pending or planned?

- Almost everything is currently on hold to mitigate risk.
- Advise keeping in touch with medical professionals/teams
- If Family Carers are worried they can contact the LD Liaison team who offered to provide support if required in liaising with the teams.
- There is still emergency provision available for non COVID-19 cases

Q4. Is there a way for carers and/or personal assistants to be tested?

- It was clear that this is not currently available but they hope to have more testing in the future.
- They suggested it is important to act on the symptoms and not to get 'hung-up' on the testing.

Q5. If present with temperature likely to relate to existing condition and not to COVID19 what happens?

- The suggested they would still fall into the COVID19 testing procedure. However, for cases like this, there is a special ambulatory assessment unit and at home testing that may be used.

Hospital passports

- OXFSN are working with NHS on creating an updated COVID19 hospital passport which will soon be available. This will be sent out to all Family Carers once finalised.
- This will not replace the person's existing hospital passport but will provide a quick version for these unprecedented times.
- The longer hospital passport still needs to be taken in to hospital. Template for this passport is also attached.
- Remember to laminate these passports twice as they need to be washable.
- It was mentioned that the OCC LD team have liaised with some parents and are creating short versions of passports for COVID19 and sending them through to the JR LD team.
- Hospital passports can be sent in advance to the JR LD team for them to upload just in case they are needed using the email learning.disability@ouh.nhs.uk
- Be **prepared**, have a **plan** and **pack** a bag with essentials – just in case.

Useful Links

<https://booksbeyondwords.co.uk/>

<https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/learning-disability-service/useful-stuff/>

<https://www.ouh.nhs.uk/patient-guide/leaflets/easyread/>

Useful Contact

If your family member suffers from epilepsy and is admitted to hospital you can also contact:

Jackie Roberts

Lead Learning Disability Epilepsy Specialist Nurse (RNLD)

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | Epilepsy Team | John Radcliffe Hospital

Email: Jackie.Roberts@ouh.nhs.uk Confidential Data: Jackie.Roberts5@NHS.net

Direct Line: 01865 (2)21137

Work Mobile: 07880 082675