Recognising learning disabilities

A practical guide for health care professionals to effectively meet the needs of patients with a learning disability

Definition of Learning Disability:
✓ Cognitive impairment, which reduces the ability to understand new or complex information (IQ<70).
✓ Reduced ability to cope independently.
✓ The limitation can show in many ways; spoken, written, coordination, attention or self control.
✓ The condition is acquired before adulthood.

Possible indicators of the Presence of a Learning Disability:
✓ Difficulty in following instructions.
✓ Difficulty in processing information.
✓ Not able to cope with more than one task at a time.
✓ Difficulty in understanding abstract concepts eg time, distance, directions.
✓ Repetition of phrases in conversation without expanding on content.
✓ Confusion about times of appointments.

No diagnosis of learning disability

Diagnosed with learning disability

Services from learning disability team

Contact

Members of the team will ascertain/confirm whether learning disability is present

Fill out referral/contact assessment

Known to service

Refer for learning disability team input

Not known to service

Thanks to Westminster and Shropshire PCT’s
Produced by West Midlands Health Facilitation & A2A network working in partnership to improve health of people with learning disabilities