

Learning from Lives and Deaths of People with a Learning Disability and Autistic People (LeDeR)

Briefing for Primary Care/GP practices – July 2024

This briefing will focus on two hot topics identified from the learning in LeDeR reviews closed over the last 2-3 months:

Pneumococcal Vaccinations:

The pneumococcal vaccination helps protect against illness such as meningitis, sepsis, pneumonia and more. It's recommended for people at higher risk of these illnesses, such as babies and adults aged 65 and over.

Pneumonia, and particularly aspiration pneumonia, is a prominent cause of death in people with a learning disability. It was identified from LeDeR reviews completed in 2023/24 as the second highest cause of death locally for people with a learning disability.

People living with a learning disability are more likely to have swallowing problems and may be affected throughout their whole life, this means they are more likely to aspirate (accidental breathing in of food or fluid into the lungs. This can cause serious problems, such as pneumonia and other lung problems).

It is therefore essential that the pneumococcal vaccination is offered to all patients with a Learning Disability that suffer swallowing difficulties. This could be completed during routine appointments or during Annual Health Checks and will help protect the most vulnerable, at-risk patients from potentially an avoidable death.

Screening:

With potentially life-saving benefits, screening is essential and should be offered to all eligible patients. Learning from reviews has identified that screening is not always offered to individuals with a learning disability, with limited reason as to why it has not been offered or completed.



If the screening offered is not taken up by an individual, it is important that this is clearly documented within the individuals records to outline the reasons why.

LeDeR colleagues across the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent system have been working together to produce an easy read breast screening video that you may find helpful to share with patients ahead of their screening appointments:

[ICB Easy Read Breast Screening Video](#)

Other videos are scoped out and will be shared when produced/available.

To **find out more** about the LeDeR programme, please visit the [LeDeR webpage](#) or email our team at:

Leder.programme@nhs.net

To report the death of someone with a learning disability or an autistic person, visit the [NHS LeDeR webpage](#).