

Mr J Learning for Professionals

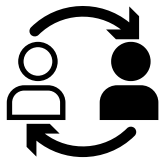


Safeguarding Adults Review

Mr J died in 2023 from a perforated bowel. He lived in a South Gloucestershire Care home for many years, his family describe him as settled there. Mr J had a moderate learning disability, Parkinson's Disease, cerebral palsy and other physical medical conditions. Prior to his death he had recurrent and persistent episodes of constipation. In April 2025 a learning event was held and this briefing outlines the key learning identified as part of this review.

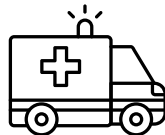
Key messages for professionals

Good practice identified



Relationship

There was consistent care for Mr J over many years



Emergency Care

Paramedic practice was excellent and identified medical risk quickly



Annual Review

Mr J's annual review in covid lockdown was robust

What were the worries?



Record Keeping

Lack of consistency, not always accurate or timely.



Constipation

Known link with LD and constipation. NICE guidance not followed correctly



Curiosity

'normal for Mr J' in recording - lack of curiosity about wellbeing

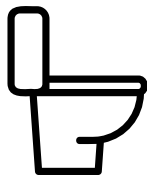


Hydration

Not enough focus on Mr J eating and drinking and awareness of dehydration

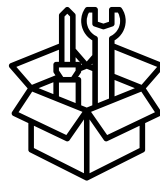
- Mr J couldn't swallow the antibiotics that were prescribed for him, the prescription was changed to liquid antibiotics, but these weren't available and he never received any antibiotics.
- Records for Mr J are not accurate enough. For example there is a record to indicate a medication has been increased but not the new dosage.
- Inconsistencies in records show a professional recording 'not constipated' when Mr J had only had 3 bowel movements in a month.
- NICE Guidance indicates that medical intervention should be prompt when there is suspected hernia and constipation, Mr J had a new lump suspected to be a hernia alongside symptoms of constipation, blood in poo, and vomiting.
- Constipation was recorded as 'normal for Mr J' - there is a risk that when an adult is known really well, conditions can be accepted when further action could be taken to help the adult. Risk assessment should be used and best practice guidance should be followed.
- Mr J had not eaten anything for 3 days and not had bowels open for 9 days when paramedics saw him, but there is no recording about this in other records.

What can we do differently?



Constipation

All practitioners should know about the links between LD & constipation



Resources

Look at the resources and use them, there is support available



Recording

Make sure your recording is accurate, timely and consistent

Resources you can use

Poo Matters

This campaign has resources and information about constipation and Learning Disabilities. [Click here to read](#)

Constipation Resources

Including leaflets, animations, easy read literature and stool chart. [Click here to access](#) - resources for carers [here](#) - resources for primary care teams [here](#).

Advice Line

Sirona Care & Health Learning Disability Health Service have an advice line - professionals and families can call for guidance and advice (Mon- Fri 9-4) [Click here to see the leaflet.](#)

Easy Read Newsletter [available here](#)