**Improving and updating your learning disability register**

Here is a practical summary based on the NHE document [NHS England » Improving identification of people with a learning disability: guidance for general practice](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/improving-identification-of-people-with-a-learning-disability-guidance-for-general-practice/)

**Why?**

People with learning disability have significantly poorer health outcomes. Including patients with learning disability to your register will entitle them to an annual health check from the age of 14, annual flu vaccination and you can document and make reasonable adjustments to allow equal access to healthcare.

**Who to include on the learning disability register?**

Ask the 2 questions:

*Do I suspect this person has a learning disability?*

And

*Will they benefit from being included on the register?*

There is no need for a referral or formal diagnosis to include patients on your register.

Use the code **SNOMED CT code 416075005 “On learning disability register”**

**The learning disability inclusion tool**

This is an easy tool to help assess your patient if you are not sure if they should be included in the learning disability register

Direct link: [Inclusion-tool-Jan-2019-3.pdf (learningdisabilityservice-leeds.nhs.uk)](https://www.learningdisabilityservice-leeds.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Inclusion-tool-Jan-2019-3.pdf)

Appendix 4 of [NHS England » Improving identification of people with a learning disability: guidance for general practice](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/improving-identification-of-people-with-a-learning-disability-guidance-for-general-practice/)

**Learning disability or learning difficulties?**

**Learning disability** is a reduced intellectual ability and difficulty with everyday activities starting in childhood. It significant reduced ability to understand new or complex information, to learn new skills and a reduced ability to cope independently.

**Learning difficulties** do not affect general intellect. They exist on a spectrum. They can co-exist with a learning disability. Examples are dyslexia, attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), dyspraxia and dyscalculia

**Access to community learning disability services:**

Being included on the register will not automatically allow access to community learning difficulties services, access to the services is need dependent and the CLDT will assess this with every referral.

**How to improve your register**

There is a list of codes in appendix 2 of [NHS England » Improving identification of people with a learning disability: guidance for general practice](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/improving-identification-of-people-with-a-learning-disability-guidance-for-general-practice/)

These codes might suggest the patient has a learning disability.

Run and emis search with these codes and create a list of your practice population who might have a learning disability.

Review the patient’s notes to see if they would benefit from being added to the register.

You might need to contact some patients to assess their eligibility using the learning disability inclusion tool above. This can normally be done over the phone.

To include the patient to your register the code: **SNOMED CT code 416075005 “On learning disability register”**

If the patient does not have learning disability you can add the code **SNOMED CT code “Learning disability excluded”**

**Patient information leaflets- easy read**

We have created an easy read leaflet you can send to a patient you have included on your learning disability register and one specifically for children and young people. Both will be added to Remedy and have been circulated with the March learning disability newsletter.