

BYTES AND BITES ON EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS

A Communique by the Toronto Partnership on Aging and Developmental Disabilities for Care Providers of Aging Adults with Developmental Disabilities

June, 2017
Volume 1, Issue 6

You've identified a sudden change in your client's health status and need to visit the emergency department. Communicating with health providers can be challenging for many reasons:

- Health care providers (HCP) may require different information such as the onset of symptoms, symptom description and medication information
- HCP may not be familiar working with adults with developmental disabilities and may find it challenging to interview the patient, which requires you to advocate on your client's behalf
- If the client is experiencing a delirium, he/she may not present in their 'typical' (baseline) way
- An unfamiliar environment, people, & processes may trigger you client and make communication and assessment difficult

Consider keeping a separate tab in your client's binder for emergency room visits. 'Essential information for the ED'

'About Me' and 'Exit Interview' are tools which can help you organize this information

Essential Information for the ED

Available online at: <http://www.surreyplace.on.ca/primary-care/12-resources-publications/135-tools-for-primary-care-providers>

About Me

Available online at: https://www.porticonetwork.ca/documents/38160/38212/Passport_YM_Oct14.pdf/1a061155-d838-43ae-8002-f76a876ceb43

Exit Interview

Available online at: <https://www.porticonetwork.ca/documents/38160/99698/Exit+InterviewPDF>

- WHAT TO DO?**
- Ensure information on the client's health status is readily available—relevant diagnosis, medications (dosages and schedule), symptoms of concern
 - Describe symptoms objectively and be specific. Include any observations of pain, discomfort, changes in mobility, vision, and mental status including your client's ability to understand instructions and participate in conversations
 - Update any necessary changes to communication and documentation tools following the ER visit

If you have any suggestions for upcoming TPADD Bytes and Bites topics or feedback on this month's issue, contact us at: gbolante@reena.org

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