COVID-19 Vaccine

Information for Personal Assistants and Family Carers

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2. What is relevant for the people I care for or support.

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4. Information about when Social work staff and Family Carers will be offered the vaccine.

5. Easy Read Vaccine information:
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1. Introduction to these resources.

The Coronavirus pandemic has been a stressful and sometimes scary time for us all – especially for people with a learning disability. We know this because they have told us this through ACE Connect. We also know that it is a difficult time for people who are caring for and supporting people with a learning disability.

There is some good news in the new COVID-19 vaccines.

In Scotland every adult will be offered a COVID-19 vaccine at some point in the upcoming months.

These resources are designed to help you to give as much accurate and fact-checked information to the people you care for in order that they can make a decision on whether they should get the vaccine when they are offered it. You might also find the information useful and informative when it comes to making your own decision.

This information is correct as of January 14, 2021.
1. Introduction to these resources.

The resources include:

- Information for personal assistants and family carers about what resources are relevant for the person you care for and support.

- Information about section 47 of the Adults with Incapacity Act.

- Information about when social care workers and family carers will be offered the COVID-19 jab.

- Easy Read information about the COVID-19 vaccine. This is something people can keep and refer back to if they have any questions or concerns about the vaccine and the process went through in approving it.

- A video made by ACE members telling people the information about the COVID-19 vaccine. This is especially helpful for people who prefer to get information by listening or watching rather than reading. You can access the videos by clicking here

This information is correct as of January 14, 2021.
2. What’s relevant for the person I care for and support?

Before you start, you should take a moment to think about the circumstances of the person you care for or support to make sure that you are sharing the right information with them. Most adults, including most with a learning disability will be able to make their own decision around whether they will take the COVID-19 vaccine when they are offered it. But as someone who is supporting an individual through this process, you should consider which of the following is relevant to them:

The person you support lives independently, with or without formal support, and does not lack capacity. With the right information, they are therefore be able to make their own informed choice about getting vaccinated. All the resources in this pack are relevant.

The person you support has a welfare guardian. A welfare guardian does not make every decision for an individual. A Welfare Guardian should only take a decision when the person could not make that decision themselves. Most adults with a welfare guardian will make their own decision about getting the COVID-19 vaccine. All the resources in this pack are relevant.

The person you support does not legally have capacity to consent. If they do not, then you should be familiar with section 47 of the Adults with Incapacity Act. Page 17 of this pack should not be used in your discussions with the person you care for. All other resources in this pack are relevant. You should also pay attention to the next page in this pack where we explain more about this. You should make every effort to make sure that the person you care for is aware of the vaccine and seek their opinion, including any concerns that they have, to inform a decision that is in their best interest.
2. What’s relevant for the person I care for and support?

In all cases, it is a good idea to write down all the things that you and the person you care for know will support them to have a good experience when they do go to get the vaccine. This is sometimes called a health passport. A template health passport is provided at the end of this pack for you to use. It will help everyone involved to get ready to make it a positive experience, and plan to overcome any challenges for the person you care for.

The Adults with Incapacity Act

If a person is ill, with a physical or mental illness they may need treatment. The law in Scotland assumes that any person can give consent, if they are 16 or over, unless there is evidence of impaired capacity. Some people with a learning disability have impaired capacity within the law.

The Adults with Incapacity Act aims to protect people who lack capacity to make specific decisions. It also is there to support their involvement in the decision making process. People who lack capacity should still be included in decisions about their own lives as far as they possibly can.

If you are authorised to make decisions or take actions on behalf of someone with impaired capacity, there are 5 principles that you must apply to your decision making:
Principle 1 – Benefit
Principle 2 – Least-restrictive option
Principle 3 – Take account of the wishes of the person.
Principle 4 – Consultation with relevant others.
Principle 5 – Encourage the person to use existing skills and develop new skills.
3.A. Adults with Incapacity Act

Some people are not able to give consent, either permanently or temporarily.

The Adults with Incapacity Act details what must happen in these cases.

The Act allows you to have treatment, but there are safeguards and exceptions.

If you need immediate treatment to save your life, staff will act immediately.

Otherwise, your doctor will assess your capacity to consent to treatment. They cannot use force unless it is immediately necessary. They cannot use this part of the Act to continue to use force, or to detain you in hospital. If you are capable, you also have the right to refuse treatment.

You might have a welfare attorney or guardian with the power to give, or refuse, consent to your treatment. If so, the doctor should consult the attorney or guardian before treating you.

If they refuse consent, the doctor can ask the Mental Welfare Commission to appoint an independent doctor to give an opinion.

The law is complicated if your doctor thinks you need to be forced to have treatment. This might need the appointment of a welfare guardian or, if it is treatment for a mental health condition, detention under mental health law.

If your doctor thinks you cannot consent, they will complete a 'section 47' certificate.

You will find more information on Section 47 on the next page.

If you are not sure whether the person you care for or support has capacity, PAs should check with your Team Facilitator or Regional Manager, and family carers should check with your loved one’s social worker.”
3.B. Adults with Incapacity Act – Section 47 Certificate

This allows the doctor, and other staff, to give you the treatment you need. When they do this, they must follow the principles of the act and the code of practice for part 5 of the Act. Sometimes, other health professionals can assess your capacity and fill in the certificate.

The Mental Welfare Commission has given some information about COVID-19 vaccinations and the use of section 47 certificates.

The Mental Welfare Commission has said “that a valid section 47 certificate that notes this, or the term “fundamental healthcare procedures”, would cover Covid vaccine. Although the code of practice description of fundamental healthcare procedures does not include vaccinations, it is the Commission’s view that, in the context of a pandemic, vaccination can be viewed as fundamental.”

You can read more about this. It is available as part of the Mental Welfare Commission’s COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions for practitioners.

You can read this document by clicking here.

To learn more about Section 47 you can read the Mental Welfare Commission’s Right to treat? Guide by clicking here.
Information on COVID-19 vaccine

4. Information on when social care staff and family carers will receive the offer of a COVID-19 vaccine.

If you are a social care worker then you are in the first priority group for being offered a COVID-19 vaccine.

The Scottish Government expects to complete this group by the middle of February 2021.

Family carers are currently in the group ‘category 6’ for priority. People who have severe or complex learning disabilities are in ‘category 6 group’ also.

Category 6 group will be in the next priority group for vaccination.

The current priority group is due to have received their first dose of vaccine by the middle of February 2021.

If you feel that the person you care for is extremely vulnerable as a result of their learning disability and other underlying health conditions then you can ask your GP to recommend that they are offered a vaccine as soon as possible.

You can keep up to date with Vaccine information at the NHS Inform website. You can find the page by clicking here.
COVID-19 Vaccine

Easy Read Information
What is Coronavirus?
What is Coronavirus?

It means wearing a face mask if you can when you are outside, at the shops or on public transport.

It means staying at least 2 metres apart from other people.

It means washing your hands often and especially when you have been outside.
What is Coronavirus?

All these things help keep the virus under control.

The other thing that will help us get back to normal is for everyone to take a medicine called a vaccine.
What is a vaccine?
What is a vaccine?

A vaccine is something that can stop people becoming ill or dying from a certain illness.

The flu jab is a kind of vaccine

Before 2020 there was not a vaccine that helped to stop people getting ill with COVID-19.

In February 2020 scientists started working to create a new vaccine that would stop people becoming ill and dying from COVID-19.

Lots of scientists from all over the world have been working on different vaccines.
How do we know it is safe?
How do we know it is safe?

It is safe.
It works.
You do not need to worry

Once scientists create a new vaccine they have to test it to see if it works.

They test the vaccine by giving it to a group of people and then waiting.

They wait to see if the people get sick from COVID-19.

If the vaccine works then it would stop most people from getting ill with COVID-19.

It would mean less people would get sick.

It would mean that less people would die with COVID-19.

When scientists tested some of the vaccines that they have invented for COVID-19 they found that they worked.

The vaccine stopped a lot of people from getting sick with COVID-19.

It also stopped people dying from COVID-19.
How do we know it is safe?

The government is not allowed to offer people a vaccine if they do not have proof that it is safe. The scientists did they tests to find out if their vaccine worked.

They found that it did.

They then give all the information from their tests to the government.

This is the second step is getting a vaccine to people.

Experts in science and medicine look over all the information from the tests.

Their job is to check that there is proof that the vaccine is safe.

They also look for proof that it works.

When they did this for some of the vaccines for COVID-19 they agreed that it worked.

They also agreed that it was safe to give the vaccine to people.
How do we know it is safe?

Once they agree that the vaccine works and is safe the government is allowed to start giving it to people.

The government can give 2 different kinds of COVID-19 vaccines to people right now.

One of them is a vaccine made by 2 companies called Pfizer and BioNTech.

Another is made by a company called AstraZenica and was made with scientists from Oxford University.

The two vaccines work in different ways. But the two vaccines do the same things.

The two vaccines both stop people dying from COVID-19/

The two vaccines stop a lot of people from becoming sick with COVID-19.
How does the vaccine get into my body?
How does the vaccine get into my body?

Both COVID-19 vaccines are given to people 2 times.

That means you get one jab.

Then a little while later you get the same jab again.

This helps to make sure you are protected from getting sick for longer.

Both of the vaccines are given to people as an injection.

Sometimes we call this a jag or a jab.

A nurse or doctor will give you the vaccine.

The vaccine is put into a syringe.

The syringe needle then goes inside your arm and the vaccine is injected.

This is what feels like a jag or a jab.

Most people who have had the jag already said that it does not hurt.
When will I get offered the vaccine?
When will I get offered the vaccine?

Scientists are making as much of the vaccine as they can.

The government decides who will get offered the vaccine when.

They are offering the vaccine to the people most likely to get really sick with COVID-19 first.

The groups of people who are being offered the vaccine now are:

- People who live in a care home.
- People who work in care homes.
- People who are over the age of 70.
- People who work in hospitals.
- People who work as carers and support workers.
- People who have downs syndrome.
- People who have a serious illness.

Once all these people have been given their first jab then the vaccine can start to be offered to other groups of people.

It will include people who have severe and complex learning disabilities.
How will I know when it is my turn to be offered the vaccine?
How will I know when it is my turn to be offered the vaccine?

When your turn comes you will be sent a letter.

The letter will say that you are being offered a vaccine for COVID-19.

If you get a letter and don’t understand what it says, ask someone you trust to help you read it.

The team at ENABLE Scotland are happy to help with this.

It will tell you where you must go to get your vaccine.

It will tell you what time you must be there to get your vaccine.

It will tell you everything else you need to know about getting your vaccine.
Where will I go to get my vaccine?
Where will I go to get my vaccine?

Once the vaccine is made it gets sent to places all over Scotland.

These places are called vaccination centres.

It can sometimes be a hospital.

It can sometimes be a GP surgery.

It can sometimes be a community centre or town hall.

Don’t worry about where you are offered your vaccine.

Every vaccination centre will be clean and safe.
Can I take someone with me to get my vaccine?
Can I take someone with me when I go to get my vaccine?

You should be able to take someone with you to your appointment.

You should only take someone to your appointment if you need to.

You can take someone to support you.

They should be able to stay with you during your jab.

If you are worried you could ask the person you want to take with you to call the telephone number on your letter and check that it will be okay for them go with you.
Do I have a choice to get the vaccine?
Do I have a choice to get the vaccine?

Yes.

You have the choice.

You do not need to have the vaccine even when you are offered it.

You can say no.

If you say no you will not get the vaccine for COVID-19.

You should think about this carefully.

It is safe.

It is the best way you can help stay safe from COVID-19 and get things back to normal.
What if I am worried about getting the vaccine?
What if I am worried about getting the vaccine?

If you are worried about the vaccine you should talk to someone you trust.

You can talk to anyone from ENABLE Scotland if you are worried about the vaccine.

They can help you find out about the things that worry you.

If you have a fear of needles or injections then you should tell the person who is giving you the jab.

They will be understanding and they will support you.

You could also speak to someone you trust and ask them to help you write done the things that would help you to relax and get ready to have the jab.
Hospital Passport Template
This is my hospital passport

For people with a learning disability coming into hospital

My name is:

If I have to go to hospital this book needs to go with me, it gives hospital staff important information about me.

It needs to hang on the end of my bed and a copy should be put in my notes.

This passport belongs to me. Please return it when I am discharged.

Nursing and medical staff please look at my passport before you do any interventions with me.

Things you must know about me

Things that are important to me

My likes and dislikes
# Hospital Passport Template

## Things you must know about me

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious/spiritual needs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services/professionals involved with me</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allergies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical interventions – how to take my blood, give injections, BP etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breathing problems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk of choking, dysphagia (eating, drinking and swallowing)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date completed ____________________  by ____________________

2
Hospital Passport Template

Things you must know about me

Current medication:

My medical history and treatment plan:

What to do if I am anxious:

Date completed __________ by __________
Do you need more information or advice?

ENABLE Scotland offers an information and support service for family carers of people with a learning disability called Family Connect.

Family Connect offers:

1. A dedicated telephone line, email and Facebook Messenger information and advice service.
2. Regular Zoom seminars on different topics such as Education Law, Self Directed Support, COVID-19 rules and guidance, the Adults with Incapacity Act and talks from invited guests to discuss different projects and campaigns.
3. A Facebook page and messenger service where family carers can go to hear about what’s coming up on Family Connect.

Family Connect is free to be a part of. You can meet other carers and get the information and advice you need.

To learn more, or get some advice you can email familyconnect@enable.org.uk, call 0300 303 0228 or search for ‘ENABLE Scotland Family Connect’ on Facebook and send us a message.