

VIP Pathway

Nursing Times Awards

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Patient
FIRST

Why we should win

The VIP pathway demonstrates a truly person-centred (personalised, coordinated and empowering) treatment approach where care and treatment is fitted around the unique needs of the person to go 'over and above' as opposed to applying a service-centred approach.

- As Learning Disability Nurses, person-centred care is embedded into our everyday practice, providing a 'reasonable adjustment' in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010, however big or small.
- The VIP pathway initiative was borne from the opportunity arising when Mr 'J' presented with different health issues which were achievable while under one anaesthetic episode.
- Prior to this we had other unique success cases.





Meet the team

Learning Disability Nurses and the Anaesthetics Team came together to represent a ground-up approach to empower people with learning disabilities.

Prior to the patient coming to the hospital, virtual meetings are held so doctors, nurses and allied health professionals can meet the individual, family and carers without causing distress.



The VIP pathway is cost effective - a reduction in multiple procedures, time and resources in arranging separate theatres bookings.

A Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) was written by the Clinical Director and the Learning Disabilities Nurses to help embed the pathway across the Trust so other specialists can use it.

The person-centred approach recognises the contribution and impact of carers as an integral part of the care team with carers seen as ‘experts by experience’.

Services that have been provided under one general anaesthetist include:

- Colonoscopy, flexi-sigmoidoscopy and endoscopy
- CT or MRI scan
- Blood tests and vaccinations
- Dental care and treatment
- Podiatry/nail care
- Hair cut
- Biopsies
- Other surgical interventions.



Therapy dogs can also be used to reduce anxiety before and after anaesthetic, and to support patients throughout the hospital journey.

Benefits for patients

- Desensitisation i.e. they may not need an anaesthetic for future interventions
- Reduced sedation risk due to only needing one general anaesthetic
- Some health issues may require further intervention/treatment
- Identify a number of health issues
- Overcoming obstacles coming to an acute hospital
- Bowel screening results, scans and biopsy results are acted on if required
- Patient health outcomes i.e. blood results identified to reduced antipsychotic medications.



Family / carer feedback

- Family and carers treated as equal participants
- Patient / carer experience improved.

Benefits for staff and Trust

- Educating staff / upskilling the workforce
- New ways of working
- Sharing knowledge
- Staff morale
- Promoting what works well
- Cost effective
- Patient facing Learning Disability awareness training

Colleagues in theatres and anaesthetics support the health advocacy and disability rights approach promoted by the daily practice of the Trust's Learning Disability Nurses.

