

Introduction to the easy read medicine information leaflets

What are the leaflets for?

These leaflets have been made to give people with a learning disability information about medicines that are used for behaviour problems.

The leaflets aim to give written information in an accessible way so that people with a learning disability are able to understand the information easier.

The easy read medication information leaflets give information on different medicines that are used to manage behaviour problems in adults with a learning disability. There is a separate leaflet for each medicine.

They give information on:

- the medicine itself
- how the medicine should be taken
- side effects of the medicine
- where more information can be found.

Another leaflet called 'When and how to take your medicine' is a form that can be filled in to meet the individual needs of the person. It gives information normally found on the label of prescription medicines in an easy read format.

There are blank boxes on the leaflet that can be filled in on the computer or by hand.

The boxes give space for information on:

- the name of the person who has been prescribed the medicine
- how much medicine should be taken
- when the medicine should be taken
- more information
- the name, address and contact details of the chemist or pharmacy.

How were the leaflets made?

The leaflets were made as part of a national guideline development project. The guideline is available to download at www.LD-Medication.bham.ac.uk.

They were made to help people meet the recommendations made in the guideline.

The leaflets were made with help from people with a learning disability. This helped to make sure that the information is accessible. The leaflets were also designed to follow guidelines on how to make accessible information.

The words on the leaflets were carefully chosen so that they are easy to understand. Pictures and photographs were used to help make the information easier to understand.

Advice on the leaflets was also sought from health professionals who made sure that the information was correct.

Who should use the leaflets?

These leaflets can be used by anyone who is involved with using medicines to manage behaviour problems in adults with a learning disability.

For example, these people might want to use these leaflets:

- people taking medicine for behaviour problems
- doctors
- nurses
- chemists or pharmacists
- carers
- care workers.

How should the leaflets be used?

The leaflets can be used by lots of different people and in lots of different situations.

For example,

- a doctor might want to use the leaflet to talk about the medicine they are suggesting for someone. The pictures and easy words on the leaflets might help people understand more about medicines and help them to make choices about their treatment
- the leaflets can be handed out by health professionals so people have information on their medicine that they can take away
- the leaflets can be used by pharmacists to give to people collecting their medicine.

All the leaflets can be downloaded from
www.LD-Medication.bham.ac.uk.

They are free to print and photocopy.

If you have any feedback or comments on the leaflets, please send them to Gemma Unwin at G.L.Unwin@bham.ac.uk.

The leaflets and this introduction were produced by Gemma L. Unwin and Professor Shoumitro Deb from the University of Birmingham with help from People First (Staffs) and Mencap. The project was funded the the Big Lottery Fund.