

3 Adapting clinical approaches

Resources for Staff

Because adults with DD may not be a prevalent population that you serve, a range of 1 pager clinical tools are available to assist in the provision of care when they come in. We encourage sites to embed these into existing care processes as much as possible to optimize their use.



Head-to-Toe assessment (commonly missed diagnoses in DD) - We know that adults with DD have particular health needs. We also know that there are underlying medical issues that may be missed – particularly when an individual presents in a state of crisis. This resource, developed by Dr. Liz Grier, provides a 1 page guide of what to look for when doing a head-to-toe and you wish to look beyond your usual assessment.



MD Tip Sheet - This is a 1 page highlight of tips, made by an MD, for other MDs.



RN Tip Sheet - This is a 1 page summary of highlights relevant to nursing staff.



Social Work Tip Sheet - This is a 1 page summary on the ways in which Social Workers can support people with DD, in the emergency department.



Developmental Services Ontario - Provides an overview of what the DSO is and gives contact information for the 9 DSO sites.



Environmental Adaptations - This provides considerations and strategies on how small changes to the setting and environment can have a major impact on someone with DD.



Rapid Tranquilization - Prepared by the [Developmental Disabilities Primary Care Initiative](#), this 5-page resource provides invaluable recommendations on the use of psychotropics for the purpose of rapid tranquilization and sedation.



Educational Videos - These brief instructional videos review 3 commonly encountered scenarios in the ED involving patients with DD. Do's and Don'ts are provided.

- *The Aggressive Patient*
- *The Frequent Visitor*
- *The Difficult Blood Draw*



Tip Cards - These cards can be screensavers, laminated as full size, or printed as cue cards.