

Screening for Developmental Disability

Observations to look out for:

- Slow response time
- Difficulty filling out forms/paperwork
- Repeat visits for same issue(s)
- Difficulty following instructions
- Difficulty with basic math, telling time
- Chronic social or legal troubles
- Concrete/literal thinking
- Difficulty rephrasing information
- Frequently misses follow-up
- Gaps in daytime activity

Questions to ask:

- **Education level:** Can you tell me about school? How old were you when you left? (People with DD can stay until 21) Were you ever in a separate class? Did you ever find school hard?
- **Day time activity:** How do you spend your days? (look for volunteering, social programming/day programming, lack of work, boredom). If working, “Do you receive any help in your job?”
- **Functional abilities:** Ask the patient to tell the time. Check their literacy - for example, point to a sign and ask them to read; Are they able to complete requisite paperwork? Ask about navigating community (how did they get here; how will they get home, etc.)
- **Support level:** Can you tell me about where you live? Do you live with anyone else (look for roommates, workers, boarding/group home) Do you have a case manager? Would you like one? Have you ever been involved with any developmental agencies? Could we call the DSO (Developmental Services Ontario) to see if they can help? (Can ask if registered, 1-855-372-3858, or go to the DSO website, (www.dsontario.ca)).