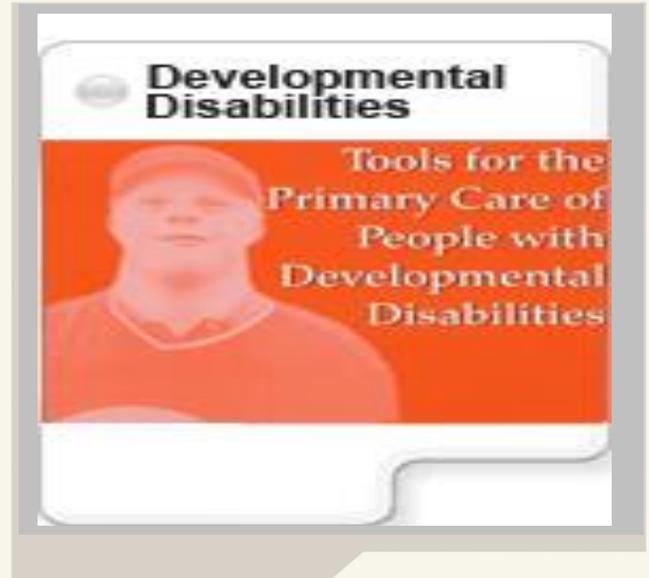


## HEALTHCARE PROVIDER EDUCATION

- Typically, care providers receive little (if any) training about developmental disabilities
- Lack of specialized experience may make care providers uncomfortable with providing care to individuals with developmental disabilities
- Individuals with developmental disabilities often have complex medical issues that require special attention

The “Tools for the Primary Care of People with Developmental Disabilities” was developed to provide information and strategies to both physicians and care providers



[HTTP://WWW.SURREYPLACE.ON.CA](http://www.surreyplace.on.ca)

## HEALTH INFORMATION OF PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

- People with developmental disabilities might not be able to provide information about their own health
- Without this information, it is difficult to know what the person's health issues might be
- Often, the first sign of illness is a change in his/her behaviour
- **The Primary Care Tools** provide sample monitoring forms that will help to track the early changes that might indicate illness (before behaviour changes become difficult to manage)
- Early detection means the person with the developmental disability will be treated sooner in the disease process

## “Tools for the Primary Care of People with Developmental Disabilities” contains:

- General information including frequently asked questions informed consent and sample tools for monitoring daily functions
- Health tools, including cumulative patient profiles, preventative care and health watch tables
- Behavioural and Mental Health tools including Behaviour Management tools and Crisis Prevention

### The Tools for Care Providers

- ✓ Caregiver Assessment Tool
- ✓ Weight Monitoring Chart
- ✓ Bowel Movement Chart
- ✓ Woman's Menses Monitoring Chart
- ✓ Sleep Chart
- ✓ Daily Seizure Monitoring Chart



- Monitoring specific areas of a person's daily activities will provide a good baseline of what a person's usual daily routine is like
- Once a baseline is established, changes to the "usual pattern of daily routine" are easier to describe

### RECOGNIZING CHANGE

- People with developmental disabilities can have difficulty verbally communicate changes in their health status. Often, changes in behaviour provide the first indication that something is wrong
- If the changes in behaviour are subtle, it is difficult for others to realize that the person is communicating distress
- Close monitoring and good documentation followed by regular review will increase the likelihood that changes in behaviour will be detected earlier
- Figuring out what a change in behaviour means to a person with a requires a bit of detective work as the meaning is not always obvious
- Interpretation and/or "guessing" can often lead to wrong conclusions and prolonged suffering

### Recognizing Behavioural Concerns

- Provides guidance for distinguishing between person and caregiver concerns
- Suggests a formula for evaluating medical concerns, problems with supports or expectations and emotional issues

#### Describes:

- Exactly what the behavioural concern is
- If pain is the cause of the change in behaviour
- Common medical conditions that should be investigated
- Stresses or changes in the person's living arrangement
- Emotional issues
- Information to include when referring to a physician
- How to develop a behaviour plan