

## Cochrane Reviews

### [Pharmacological intervention for irritability, aggression, and self-injury in autism spectrum disorder \(ASD\)](#)

Pharmacological interventions are frequently used for people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to manage behaviours of concern, including irritability, aggression, and self-injury. Some pharmacological interventions might help treat some behaviours of concern but can also have adverse effects (AEs).

## Studies

### [Building musical lives: The impact of supporting musical play in the everyday lives of autistic children and their families](#)

Musical spaces have been observed to be highly engaging for autistic children, ameliorating barriers often experienced in communication and interaction. Music interventions with this group are widespread and have frequently noted the importance of integrating caregivers. Yet beyond music therapy, there is limited research on how to support music-making in daily life for autistic children and their families. In particular, there is a lack of long-term ecological evidence with this group for how music can support everyday functioning, care routines, and wellbeing.

### [Comparison of network structures between autistic and non-autistic adults, and autism subgroups: A focus on demographic, psychological, and lifestyle factors](#)

There are large differences in the level of demographic, psychological, and lifestyle characteristics between autistic and non-autistic adults but also among autistic people. Our goal was to test whether these differences correspond to differences in underlying relationships between these characteristics—also referred to as network structure—to determine which characteristics (and relationships between them) are important.

### [Autistic adults' experiences of financial wellbeing: Part II](#)

Money matters in people's lives. It helps to meet people's basic needs (food, clothes, shelter) and live the lives they want to. When people talk about 'financial wellbeing', they mean how much you feel in control over day-to-day finances and how much freedom you have to make choices to enjoy life. We don't know what autistic people think about these things. That's why we did our study.

### [Exploring Lived Experience of Family and Domestic Violence Against Women With Disability: A Scoping Review](#)

This article reports on a scoping review exploring understandings of family and domestic violence (FDV) against women with disability (WWD) within the literature and constitutes the second article in a two-part series, the first critiquing the categorization and measurement of FDV and disability. We report findings from qualitative studies included in the review, predominantly interpretivist and critical in orientation.

### [Age-Related Differences in Accelerometer-Assessed Physical Activity and Sleep Parameters Among Children and Adolescents With and Without Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Meta-Analysis](#)

Question: What differences in accelerometer-assessed physical activity and sleep parameters exist in children and adolescents with and without autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and are associations affected by age?



### ['I live in extremes': A qualitative investigation of Autistic adults' experiences of inertial rest and motion](#)

'Autistic inertia' is a term used by Autistic people to refer to difficulties with starting and stopping tasks. However, there has not been much research on Autistic inertia. The research that is available on Autistic inertia has mostly focused on the negative aspects of inertia, rather than on the possible benefits of needing to continue tasks. In this research, we wanted to understand more about Autistic people's experiences of inertia and to work out what things might influence these experiences.

### [Overall and Cervical Cancer Survival in Patients With and Without Mental Disorders](#)

Question: What are the survival patterns of patients with cervical cancer with and without a preexisting diagnosis of a mental disorder?

## Blogs

### [Potentially unlawful substitution of mental health and learning disabilities nurses in UK in-patient services – the realities on the ground](#)

The RCN has received reports from several members expressing concerns regarding the substitution of registered learning disabilities and mental health nurses with registered adult and children's nurses, as well as allied health professionals, in an attempt to fill nursing vacancies in in-patient mental health services.

### [The Learning Disability GP – Building a service in learning disability medicine](#)

Dr Maria Vincent (GP Specialist in Learning Disability Medicine, Clinical Fellow Learning Disability Psychiatry (Swansea Bay University Health Board), GP Partner Vale of Neath Practice, Glynneath) talks about the role of a GP in the learning disability team.

## News

### [How a new programme is providing education for families and carers](#)

Autism Central is a new peer education programme, commissioned by NHS England. It aims to build knowledge and understanding of autism and empower families and carers to advocate for autistic people they support to get the right understanding and adjustments in place across the services they use. Everything the programme does is informed by or co-produced with autistic people, families and carers.

### ["Raising the voice of people with a learning disability" - Accessible Voting](#)

I'm Mary Woodall and I am a self-advocate and member of Learning Disability England's representative body. As part of this work on the rep body I am Learning Disability England's representative on the Social Care All Party Parliamentary group (APPG) lived experience advisory group.

### [What clinicians tell us about using telehealth for autism diagnostic assessments during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

A recent study, commissioned by NHS England, looked into clinician's views on the use of digital technology in the autism assessment pathway. We have produced a summary of the study.



### [Mental health issues emerge with shifts in autism traits across childhood](#)

Both an increase in the severity of social-communication issues and a decrease in restricted and repetitive behaviors over time could up an autistic child's vulnerability to anxiety and other mental health conditions, a new study finds.

### [Journal club: Why do some children lose their autism diagnosis?](#)

A study published 2 October in JAMA Pediatrics reports that 79 of 213 children who were diagnosed with autism at 12 to 36 months of age no longer met criteria for the condition at 5 to 7 years old. Spectrum asked autism researcher Deborah Fein, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Psychological Sciences at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, for her thoughts on the findings. In a 2013 study, Fein and her colleagues described a sample of people who lost their autism diagnosis.

### [Building the Right Support Action Plan - User guide](#)

The Government's 'Building the Right Support Action Plan' intends to make it easier for autistic people and people with a learning disability to access the support that they need, at the right time. It has been developed with the aim of bringing together, in one place, actions across government and public services to strengthen community support and reduce overall reliance on mental health inpatient care. It is hoped that the measures in the Action Plan will prevent more people from reaching a point of crisis and ending up with an inappropriate hospital admission where they may not always receive the right care.

### [Autism Alliance joins call to transform care](#)

The Autism Alliance has signed and contributed to a joint letter to political leaders from a partnership of people and organisations, calling for them to commit in their Party Manifestos to transform care for autistic people and people with learning disabilities.

### [New advocacy group to educate employers about the importance of inclusive recruitment practices](#)

A learning disability charity has launched a new national alumni network as part of plans to get 10,000 young autistic people and people with a learning disability into work by 2030. The network has been launched by DFN Project SEARCH, a charity which runs a one-year transition to work programme for young autistic adults and young adults with a learning disability.

### [Loneliness and learning disability: is it a silent killer?](#)

#### **Trigger warning: suicide**

Their whole lives lay before them and yet death was a more appealing prospect than anything the future might bring. Last May, research showed people under 30 years with autism and a learning disability had been choosing euthanasia in the Netherlands. In most cases, those who chose to end their lives were older with illnesses like cancer, Parkinson's, and the neurological disorder amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. But some were much younger and gave only their autism or learning disability as the reason they wanted to die.

### [Five hidden barriers every disabled job candidate has to overcome](#)

The theme of this year's National Inclusion Week is Take Action Make Impact. This is a call for everyone within an organisation to think about what actions they can take that make a positive and lasting impact to help build an inclusive culture.



challenging behaviour  
**Learning Disabilities and Autism**  
Asperger Syndrome  
quality of life

mental capacity  
intellectual disabilities

health information  
carers

research



**NHS**  
**Mersey Care**  
NHS Foundation Trust  
Community and Mental Health Services

10 October 2023

[Mencap calls on businesses to “realise the potential” of people with learning disabilities](#)

The learning disability charity Mencap is urging businesses to consider people with learning disabilities as valuable employment candidates following unprecedented levels of vacancies across key sectors of the economy. People with a learning disability have the lowest employment rate of any health condition or disability, with only a quarter (26.7%) in work. However, many people with learning disabilities want to work, but they face significant barriers which often prevent them from gaining employment.

[RPS calls for learning disability and autism training to be extended to pharmacists](#)

Currently, all healthcare and social care staff registered with the Care Quality Commission must be trained on learning disabilities and autism, but this does not include pharmacists. The RPS says they “firmly believe” this training should be compulsory for pharmacists too, as it would give them the right skills and knowledge to provide “safe, compassionate and informed care” to autistic people and people with learning disabilities.

[Best practice in supporting adults to live independently in the community](#)

How the Shared Lives service has helped social workers at Herefordshire find long and short-term placements for adults who need care and support.

