



REHABILITATION & COMMUNITY
PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION

Info

Preparing Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities for Medical Treatment at Hospitals

Most hospitals are not allowing staff or loved ones to accompany patients for treatment. After learning of incidents of inferior treatment for individuals with IDD in New York hospitals, Michelle Ballan Ph.D. from Stony Brook University, created the [COVID-19 Disability Form](#). The form has been reviewed by ER physicians, families of individuals with IDD and adults with IDD. At the request of disability agencies nationwide, the form was amended for each state governmental agency's Developmental Disabilities Services and the state's equivalent of the MOLST/POLST. The goal is for the form to be completed proactively prior to seeking medical attention for COVID-19 symptoms at a hospital. Having this form, and the accompanying documents noted on page 2 of the form, will help to alert ER staff to the preferred communication with the patient with IDD. It is hoped that this resource will assist medical professionals to deliver quality medical treatment to individuals and to respect his/her needs and wishes. We thank Dr. Ballan for sharing the Ballan, M. & Perri, C. (2020). COVID-19 Disability Form.

If you have questions, please contact [Michelle Ballan, PhD](#). Or go to [Dr. Ballan's Faculty Profile](#).