

**Providing Medical Care to Adults  
with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities:**  
*Panel Description and Discussion Questions*

**Learning objectives:**

1. Understand the challenges adults with I/DD experience in accessing healthcare
2. Learn about the ways that adults with I/DD prefer to be accommodated/supported in accessing healthcare
3. Recognize ways that providers can better meet the needs of adult patients with I/DD

**Panel composition:**

- **Person with I/DD (or sensory needs):** someone who is verbal, comfortable speaking in front of a crowd, comfortable talking about his/her own disability, and has challenges when visiting the doctor, can speak to good and bad experiences
- **Person with a developmental disability, and significant physical challenges related to accessing care:** someone who is verbal, comfortable speaking in front of a crowd, comfortable talking about his/her own disability, and has challenges when visiting the doctor, can speak to good and bad experiences
- **Family member of an adult with I/DD:** comfortable speaking in front of a crowd, has accompanied person with I/DD to medical appointments, can speak to ways that accessing healthcare has been challenging, can provide examples of positive and negative experiences

**\*\*Note:** These are suggestions for creating a robust and effective panel, but are flexible based on availability of panelists who meet these criteria and are willing to share their experiences.

**\*\*People may have had negative experiences with health care professionals in the past.** This panel presentation offers a means to use those experiences to educate other professionals and provide clear examples. Panelists should be able to share such negative experiences without hostility or accusation.

**Moderator:**

**Healthcare provider with experience caring for adults with I/DD:** can share the healthcare provider's perspective about what is challenging and what is helpful when providing care to adults with I/DD

### **Questions for Panelists:**

1. Please tell us about yourself.
2. What are the most important things for health care providers to know about you and your needs?
3. What are your biggest challenges related to healthcare?
4. Can you describe a negative experience with a doctor or other healthcare provider and explain why it was so negative?
  - What might have helped things go better?
5. Can you describe a positive experience when you got the healthcare you needed and your needs were accommodated well?
  - What was so helpful about this experience?
6. Anything else you'd like to share?

**\*\*Note:** Questions should be shared with panelists in advance to allow time for them to prepare their responses. If you know someone well, feel free to request that they include specific experiences or information in their responses.

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