



Office of Developmental Primary Care

Improving outcomes for people with developmental disabilities

Barriers to Care for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Barriers exist for patients, caregivers, and the health care providers who serve them. Appropriate health care service delivery models, training and funding can eliminate or reduce these barriers.

- Communication barriers.
- Extra time needed for appointments.
- Extra time needed for care coordination.
- Fragmentation of medical system.
- Health care provider attitudes towards people with disabilities.
- Inaccessible office design (physical, social, and programmatic).
- Lack of mechanism for interdisciplinary team members to work together.
- Lack of trained, educated, and stable direct caregiver and health professions workforce.
- Logistical and caregiver resources required to arrange appointments.
- Medical and educational records unavailable or too poorly organized, summarized, and voluminous to be of clinical use.
- Offices that require long waiting room stays.
- Patient anxiety during changes in routine or environment.

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