

EXAMPLE OF MEDIUM RISK: PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT REQUIRED



SITUATION

John is a 22 year old man with severe learning disabilities and a history of epilepsy, having tonic clonic type seizures. He had been seizure free for several years but recently has had a cluster of seizures requiring presentation at the local Emergency Department.

John has been reviewed by a Neurologist and prescribed Buccal Midazolam for seizures presenting over 4 minutes.

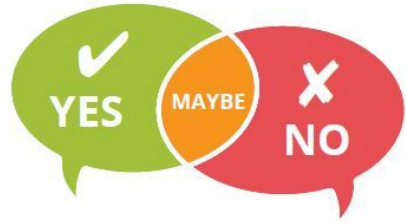
In the past John has been going out socially aided by a senior nursing assistant Lucy who works within the Community Learning Disabilities Nursing team and who also assists him with general personal care. Lucy has built up an excellent rapport with John, is aware of the complexities of his medical requirement, has had training in relation to John's condition and understands what to do in the event of a seizure.

Due to the current instability of his condition John is required to be accompanied at all times by someone who can administer the Buccal Midazolam. His parents have been trained by the hospital epilepsy nurse specialist to administer the medication and they are keen that Lucy continues to accompany John on his social outings but are aware that she is unable to administer the Buccal Midazolam. John is due a weekly review by the Learning Disabilities Community Nursing Team and John's parents express their concerns to Kate who is the Learning Disabilities Community Nursing Sister.

ASSESSMENT

John was reviewed by Kate the Learning Disabilities Community Nursing Sister who identified that there was a requirement that John be accompanied at all times by someone who was able to administer the Buccal Midazolam drug. This had been updated in the nursing care plan following his recent hospital attendance and appropriate risk assessments had been undertaken. Kate knows that John's parents have been trained to administer the drug and understands that the task of administering Buccal Midazolam to John in the event of a prolonged attack could potentially be delegated to Lucy so that she would be able to do the same if the situation arose.

Kate decides to use the Decision Support Tool to assist her decision making. She is aware that all the indicators could be in the green if Lucy had the knowledge and training in relation to administering the drug if required. Lucy is also cognisant of the fact that the drug will only be required if John has a seizure lasting 4 minutes or more therefore there are clear limits to the task.



DECISION

Kate contacts the Specialist Epilepsy Nurse for further guidance who arranges for Lucy to attend bespoke training in how to administer the Buccal Midazolam if John has a prolonged seizure whilst he is under Lucy's Care. There is an appropriate policy for epilepsy diagnosis and management in a community setting and the nursing care plan is updated specifying that this has been developed and agreed by John and his parents. Lucy understands her responsibilities including the feedback mechanism and process for escalating any concerns. Having assured that Lucy has been assessed as competent Kate delegates the task to Lucy.