Example of an ED intervention for patients with Developmental Disabilities

Patient with DD (or suspected) is identified; Documented

1) Front-line staff are trained to look for signs of DD, as well as simple, non-threatening questions that can be asked to help identify a suspected DD. See ***Screening section*** in toolkit.
2) Agree on a term to document and communicate it to colleagues. This could be "DD" or "DD CARES" of "query DD".

Consider if you can develop an electronic or automatic prompt that "pushes" this information out.*

Clinical tips are pushed out to treating team members.

Tips for medical and nursing staff are provided at the point of care. Includes assessment strategies & commonly missed diagnoses (see ***MD and RN Tip Sheets***)

Tips for Social Work are provided at the point of care. Includes info on community services and resources for pt/caregiver. (See ***SW Tip Sheet***)

Care is adapted accordingly.

Staff employ adapted approaches when interviewing, assessing and treating the patient.

Social worker liaises with caregivers; may call upon specialized DD services to see if additional supports are available.

Discharge communication & information is enhanced.

1) ***Dear Dr. letter*** is created. Ideally, it is shared electronically with Family Physician/Case Manager.
2) ***Dear Patient letters*** are shared with patient, provided a clear language summary. Further, and ***EXIT INTERVIEW*** (see Tool) can be completed w patient/caregiver to enhance follow up.
3) ***Crisis Planning*** is discussed , as are ***tips for preparing for future emergencies*** (by SW, RN, etc.).

****See electronic infrastructure tip sheet for ideas.***