



Getting the right help from a doctor in the community can be hard.



A doctor in the community is called a General Practitioner, or GP for short.



GPs are the best doctors to help with lots of health problems.



People should not need to go to hospital for these types of health problems.

**We wanted to know:**

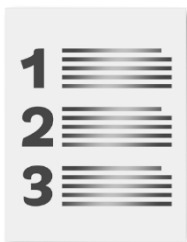


How many people with an intellectual disability go to hospital for a health problem that a GP could have helped with.

If people with an intellectual disability go to hospital for these health problems more than people without an intellectual disability.



To answer our questions, we looked at information collected by hospitals in NSW.



This information did not include people's names.



We put the information into two groups. People with intellectual disability and people without intellectual disability



We then looked to see if the two groups were the same or different.

**We found that:**



Lots of people with an intellectual disability go to hospital for a health problem that a GP could have helped with.



People with an intellectual disability are about 4 times more likely than people without an intellectual disability to go to hospital for a health problem that a GP could have helped with.



Epilepsy is the most common health problem that people are going to hospital for.

People with an intellectual disability are more likely than people without an intellectual disability to go to hospital for a sudden short term health problem.



People with intellectual disability also went to hospital a lot for problems with their teeth.



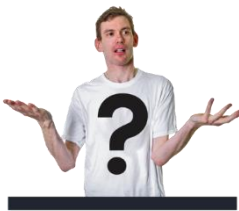
People with intellectual disability are more likely to go to hospital for a health problem that a vaccine could have stopped. For example, the flu.

A vaccine is medicine that helps people to fight a sickness if they come in contact with it.

**We think this means that:**



People with an intellectual disability are not getting the health care they need.



We need to help people with an intellectual disability to know about health problems and where they can get help with their health problems.



GPs may need help to give better care to people with an intellectual disability.



We want to do another study to look at why people with an intellectual disability go to hospital for a health problem that a GP could have helped with.

The full study can be found here:

<https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.51088>