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## Barriers to Accessing Primary Care for Developmentally Disabled Compared to Non-Developmentally Disabled Adults

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Developmentally disabled (DD) patients often have problems with accessing primary care services when compared to adults without developmental disabilities. Penchansky and Thomas' (1981) Theory of Access was used as the framework in this review to describe how the requirements in healthcare and how these directions play a pivotal role to accessing primary care. After researching the literature related to DD patients' access to primary care, this paper will highlight their impediments to receiving primary care services in comparison to non-developmentally disabled patients. Studies in this review have identified key components as poor communication, lack of training and anxiety and mistrust of the patient. The future of primary care is focused on improving the relationship between patients and general practitioners (GPs) to improve patient outcomes; therefore, it is important to address the challenges facing DD patients.

### Biography

Jessica Dias completed her LPN in 2002, and her Associate's in Nursing in 2014 from Quincy College and a Bachelor's in the Science of Nursing in 2016 from Southern New Hampshire University. She will complete her Master's in 2019 in Nursing specializing in the Family Nurse Practitioner track. She specializes in Developmental Disabilities working with this vulnerable population for over 17 years it has been her mission to improve the quality care they receive. This is especially personal with her own son struggling to receive quality care with a diagnosis of Autism and DD.

### Notes: