

Covid19 Vaccinations: Clinical Holding Techniques

Good practice, law and clinical guidance

Positive Response Training recognises the need to provide practical advice and guidance to partner organisations and staff in supporting vulnerable individuals to be safely vaccinated against Covid19.

At the time of writing, we still await specific Covid19 best practice guidance from government or regulatory authorities which might underpin clinical holding procedures offered for use. In lieu of this, previous guidance on similar clinical interventions which may be useful to consider includes: the [2017 Public Health England](#) information on **undertaking blood tests** for people with learning disabilities and this [2018 PHE guidance on flu vaccinations](#). Both cite 'safe-holding' as reasonable adjustments.

Potential human rights and ethical challenges remain largely unaddressed in relation to effectively holding people without (and in some cases possibly people with some degree of) capacity in order to essentially force them to be vaccinated. [This legal interpretation](#) may assist in the decision-making process and illustrate the potential role of the Court of Protection in coming to individual decisions based on the principle of best interest.

[This RRN webinar](#) outlines some key legislation that may need to be considered in the decision-making process; including the Human Rights Act (articles 2 and 8), Mental Capacity Act and the Equalities Act. Any restrictive physical intervention used for vaccination purposes would still have to remain compatible with the requirements within section 6 of the MCA (2005).

Important preliminary, practical concepts to be considered would include attempted **desensitisation** procedures and consideration of any potential **reasonable adjustment** which might be considered - eg where the vaccination might take place. It's imperative that clinical holds for vaccination can show planning, preparation, person-centred process and has been as well communicated to the person as possible.

Although [this guidance on the use of restrictive PI in relation to Covid19](#) is related to work undertaken in ICU and low secure units, it provides useful information on the range and use of PPE which you should consider prior to undertaking such a procedure. (see pages 18-20 in particular).

Trainer information and how to become authorised to use the clinical holding techniques for Covid19 vaccination

- Initially you should make a request to us at training@positive-response.co.uk. We will ask you to complete a short form and on receipt of the information we will inform you which technique can be used (single or two-person seated restraint for Covid19 vaccination and/or bed-based technique for Covid19 vaccination) and costs for either trainer or care staff training.
- The PBMpro clinical holds for Covid19 vaccination are exclusively for the administration of this vaccination for the duration of the Covid19 pandemic only. They are not available for ongoing, more general, clinical holding needs – unless individually agreed thereafter.
- The use of these techniques must be internally risk assessed for each individual being physically supported in vaccination, the most effective option identified and selected, and not assumed to be uniformly or equally suitable for everyone being supported in a service. Aspects of physical size, weight and levels of anxiety should be considered in relation to eg the carers' physical ability and levels of overall competence and experience.
- PBMpro trainers can have tuition in these techniques from us by face-to-face or online Microsoft Teams training. Maximum group size 8 per session. The training will be 1.5 - 2 hours depending on the techniques covered.
- Care staff can only have training in these techniques by face-to-face training with one of our senior trainers or one of your associate trainers. Maximum group of 8 per session. The training will be about 2 - 2.5 hours depending on the techniques covered.
- Anyone attending this training should adhere to the conditions set out in the Clinical Techniques Briefing Note 2020 (available on request). Participants on these courses must have received the first dose of the vaccine themselves.



Mark Hilley
Lead Trainer