This app enables healthcare professionals to improve their communication with adults with learning disabilities. It was devised after the parents of a man living with profound learning disabilities were encouraged to summarise their son’s care needs by gathering all the information in an iBook.

Features of the app include a contacts book, documents, appointments and alerts. As sections of the app can easily amend information, it’s a better alternative to paper diaries, which need constant revision.

The app is user-friendly – people can add images, video and audio, and share information. But it’s only available on iPad.

The resource improves contact between healthcare providers and patients, and enhances integrated working and front line services. Commissioners can also use the app to tackle health inequalities and obtain care quality reports direct from service users.

Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Compatible with iPad.

Reviewed by Layla Haidrani, RCNi editorial assistant

Dad’s Not All There Any More
★★★★★

This wonderful little book tells the story of a man with Lewy body dementia (LBD), using illustrations that combine humour, pathos and pathology.

Exploring both physical and mental changes, Dad’s Not All There Any More shows how LBD symptoms affect people with the condition, as well as their loved ones.

The story is told by John, whose father, Pete, had been coping with Parkinson’s disease before he began having LBD hallucinations.

The condition is identified only by observing symptoms, such as spontaneous Parkinsonism, hallucinations, varying states of consciousness and rapid eye movement sleep behaviour disorder.

To illustrate LBD and its effects, the author imagines that there are switchboard operatives in Pete’s brain who move connectors efficiently between his skill, memory and vision centres. Lewy bodies, presented as ‘little blobs of protein’, cover the operatives’ heads until they can no longer see well enough to make the connections.

As a result, Pete has hallucinations. These begin when he sees a girl with red hair who disappears while he is looking at her directly.

The medication that Pete takes for dementia makes his Parkinson’s symptoms worse, but John appears to physically ‘freeze’ when Pete doesn’t take it before they go on an outing.

The comic book form is ideal for expressing the love and frustration John feels, while also explaining the disease. A must-read for nurses who work with older people.


Reviewed by Ruth Sander, an independent consultant in care of the older person

The Health Debate (Second edition)
★★★★★

This book is essential for any nurse interested in the political agenda and its impact on the NHS and nursing. The updated edition includes information on recent national policy changes such as the Five Year Forward View, which is discussed in detail.

The conclusions at the end of each chapter help to clarify and underline the issues. With current austerity measures and rapid changes in health care, this is appropriate reading for nurses to help them gauge the drivers for change.

Nurses in leadership roles should read this text to assist with future planning and help them gain an understanding of the complex system we work within.

The book is an excellent reference guide and would be ideal for libraries to stock. It ensures that the reader understands the many reasons behind the fast pace of change being experienced by the NHS.


Reviewed by Debbie Quinn, Queen’s Nurse, head of professional development, Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust