

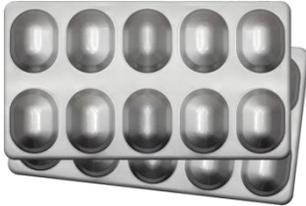


Public Health  
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

# **People with learning disabilities, autism or both: prescribing of psychotropic drugs**

## **Easy-read summary**



People with learning disabilities, autism or both are sometimes given medicines they don't need.



These are mostly medicines to calm them down or stop them feeling depressed.



Some people are given these when others find their behaviour challenging or because they do things to hurt themselves.



Taking these medicines is not the best way to help these problems. The medicines also have some bad side effects.



NHS England wants to stop these medicines being given to people when they won't help. They started a programme called STOMP to make this happen. NHS England wants to know if STOMP is working.



We looked at GP records to find out.



We looked at how many people with learning disabilities, autism or both were given these medicines.



We looked at numbers from 2010 to 2017.



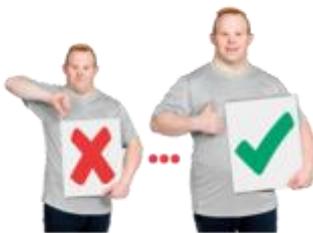
We checked if the people had other problems that the medicines do help with.



We checked if people were given different medicines at the same time.



We checked for adults with learning disabilities and autistic children and young people. We didn't have enough records to check for children with learning disabilities or older autistic adults.



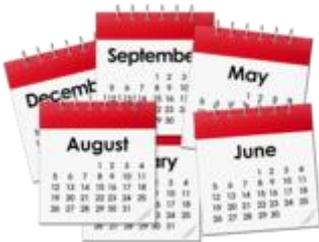
After STOMP started, fewer adults with learning disabilities were being given these medicines. The difference wasn't big.



Fewer adults with learning disabilities were being given more than one of these medicines.



For autistic children and young people not much changed.



It can take a long time to take someone off medication. So we might have been looking too soon to see a big difference. It would be good to look again next year.



NHS England want to use these numbers to stop more people with learning disabilities or autism from being given these medicines when they don't need them.