

Parental chronic physical illness and child-aware practice e-learning course

About the course

This course supports practitioners to focus on children's mental health by holding respectful and collaborative conversations with parents experiencing chronic physical illness. It is based on evidence and the understanding that parental chronic physical illness can have a direct impact on children's social and emotional wellbeing.

Who is this course for?

This course is designed for health professionals and practitioners who work in adult services for people who experience chronic physical illness.

Why was this course developed?

Practitioners working with parents experiencing physical illness are well placed to hold preventative conversations that can help reduce the negative impacts on children.

The relationship between a child and their parent(s) is one of the key influences on children's positive social, emotional and physical development and growth. But the circumstances surrounding parental chronic physical illness can disrupt parents' ability to 'parent' as they would like to.

This course supports practitioners to have conversations that support parents and their children throughout the treatment of a physical illness.

How long does this course take?

This course will take approximately four hours to complete, and includes reading the material, videos, and reflective activities. It is designed to be undertaken individually, but can also be used as a prompt for conversations between colleagues.



Learning aims

This course equips practitioners with the skills to:

- Describe how a parent's chronic physical illness may impact on children's social and emotional wellbeing.
- Understand the value of engaging patients or clients who are parents about their parenting and children.
- Identify entry points to engage in preventative conversations with parents about their children's social and emotional wellbeing.
- Incorporate routine enquiry about children's social and emotional wellbeing as part of appointments with parents.
- Use the PERCS Conversation Guide, where there is a need, to have conversations with parents about children's social and emotional wellbeing.