

Students with acute, chronic or long-term illness

Acute or chronic illnesses can take many forms, for instance ME, cystic fibrosis, asthma, inflammatory bowel disease (e.g. Crohn's disease), multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy.

Students with acute or chronic illness may present problems such as:

- pain;
- tiredness;
- muscle and function control;
- mobility difficulties;
- sudden and unexpected episodes of their illness;
- deterioration of their well-being during the course of their study;
- disrupted patterns of study;
- difficulties with concentration, short-term memory;
- pre-occupation with their personal situation.

Solutions could include:

- providing a support worker to assist with travel, communication, locating and carrying books and items;
- ensuring meetings take place at accessible venues and have appropriate facilities;
- setting short-term goals to build up a record of achievement and help pace progress;
- encouraging the student to do something, however brief or insignificant it may appear;
- considering whether counselling or assertiveness training may help;;
- considering if medical or psychiatric assistance is appropriate;
- considering whether time out from study would be beneficial. |