

POSTER ABSTRACT

Picture This: Using Social Stories to Decode Radiology for Neuro-Diverse Patients

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Background: Radiology can feel overwhelming due to dim lighting, unusual positioning, and unfamiliar equipment. For neurodivergent patients, these challenges are intensified, creating stressful encounters.

Approach: The radiology department at the National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh introduced its first social story to support patients attending for a knee X-ray. These step-by-step narratives explain procedures in plain language and pictures, reducing uncertainty.

Results: The social story improved patient preparedness, lowered anxiety, and enhanced communication. It also supported patients with hearing impairments and language barriers.

Implications: Low-cost, accessible tools like social stories can make radiology more inclusive. Expanding this approach across imaging procedures has international potential to improve patient-centred care.