



# HOW CAN A HEALTHCARE TRANSITION TEAM PROMOTE THE GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS OF YOUTH WITH NEUROLOGIC CONDITIONS?

Healthcare transition between pediatric and adult services for youth with neurologic conditions can lead to negative health consequences as well as poor transition outcomes in areas such as access to postsecondary education, employment, social inclusion and independent living. This work focusses on the process of working through unique social and ethical aspects of transition for youth with neurologic conditions who will age out of pediatric care.

**Reference:** Bogossian, A., Majnemer, A., & Racine, E. (2020). Contextualized autonomy in transitional care for youth with neurologic conditions: The role of the pediatric neurologist, *Journal of Child Neurology*, DOI: [10.1177/0883073820918454](https://doi.org/10.1177/0883073820918454).

## WHO SHOULD READ THIS?

Pediatric neurologists and members interdisciplinary healthcare transition teams may confront fundamental ethical questions as they work with youth with neurologic conditions and their families. This paper is suitable for those interested in supporting the desired autonomy of youth with neurologic conditions by examining their life goals, their preferences and the meaningfulness of those.



## WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

To develop on how a transition team can structure an approach for exploring and promoting the goals and aspirations of youth with neurologic conditions, the authors draw on the concept of contextualized autonomy that recognizes autonomy as a complex ability exercised in a given context. In this way, autonomy can be supported by paying simultaneous attention to personal abilities and goals as well as to environmental factors such as family, policies or available resources that may augment or diminish autonomy.

## WHAT DID THE RESEARCHERS DO?

To illustrate the concept of contextualized autonomy in the context of healthcare transition, they drew on a fictitious case about a 15-year old young woman named Liz who is a person with cerebral palsy and mild-to-moderate intellectual disabilities.



## WHAT DID THE RESEARCHERS FIND?

Through the application of the contextualized autonomy framework on the case illustration, they outlined practice considerations for work with this youth and offered guiding questions to support explorations and practice with youth and their families.

## WHAT NOW?

Autonomy is a valuable concept for supporting the goals and aspirations of youth with neurologic conditions and the support of autonomy requires a multidimensional understanding of autonomy and an interdisciplinary approach. Accordingly, the researchers hope to develop interventional research in health ethics to test and enrich the assumptions of this framework.

