

Your rights as an Informal patient

Who is an informal patient?

A person who has agreed (that means they have said yes) to be in hospital for care and treatment.

What are my rights regarding care and treatment?

Your doctor and nurse are responsible for looking after you while you are in hospital.

They will talk with you about any treatment they think will be helpful.

You will be able to talk about the treatment and ask questions.

The doctor and nurse will only give you treatment with your agreement (that means if you say yes).

The doctor or nurse will give you a copy of your care plan.

What if I do not want treatment?

If you agree to treatment you can change your mind at any time. Just tell your doctor or nurse.

If you do not want treatment, then the doctor and nurse will talk with you about what might happen to you.

If the doctor and nurse think it will harm you (or someone else) to not have treatment they might decide to use a section of the Mental Health Act. That means they will be able to give you the treatment even if you say no.

The doctor and nurse will always talk with you first.

Can I leave the hospital?

You can leave any time. If you would like to leave please tell your doctor or nurse.

The main door to the ward is locked to keep you safe.

If you want to leave the ward the staff will unlock the door for you.

If there are concerns about you leaving the hospital

If the doctor and nurse think that leaving the hospital will be harmful to you (or someone else) they might decide to use a section of the Mental Health Act. That means they can keep you in hospital even if you say no.

The doctor and nurse will always talk with you first.

Visitors

You will usually be able to have visits from your friends, family or carers.

The ward may have visiting times. If your visitor needs to come at another time please talk to your nurse or doctor.

Letters

Your family, friends and carers can send you letters while you are on the ward. Staff will give you the letters.

Any questions?

If you have any questions please ask your nurse or doctor. They are happy to help.

Would you like this information in a different way?

If you need the information in this leaflet in a different language or in braille or large print you can ask your nurse or doctor.