



Revocation of Community Treatment Order for Treatment under Section 3 of the Mental Health Act

(Section 17F of the Mental Health Act 1983)



Sussex Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

Why am I in hospital?

You are being kept in this hospital because the person in charge of your care (your responsible clinician) has revoked (ended) your community treatment order so that you can be kept in hospital to be given the treatment and care that you need.

You can be kept here under section 3 of the Mental Health Act 1983 because this was the section under which you were kept in hospital before you went onto supervised community treatment.

Your responsible clinician and an approved mental health professional think that you have a mental disorder and you need to stay in hospital for treatment. An approved mental health professional is someone who has been specially trained to help decide whether people need to be kept in hospital.

How long will I be here?

You can be kept here for up to six months at first from when your community treatment order was revoked so that you can be given the treatment you need.

You must not leave during this time unless your responsible clinician tells you that you may. If you try to leave the staff can stop you, and if you do leave you can be brought back.

What happens next?

Your responsible clinician will tell you when they think you are well enough to leave hospital. If your responsible clinician thinks that you need to stay in hospital for longer than six months, they can renew how long you can be kept in hospital for up to another six months, and then for up to a year at a time. Your responsible clinician will talk to you about this towards the end of each period.



Can I appeal?

Yes. You can ask the Hospital Managers to let you leave hospital. You can do this at any time. The Hospital Managers are a special committee of people set up within the hospital to decide whether people should still be kept in hospital. They may want to talk to you before deciding whether to let you leave.

Your nearest relative can also write to the Hospital Managers to say that they want you to be allowed to leave hospital. This leaflet explains further down who your nearest relative is. If your nearest relative does this, the Hospital Managers must let you leave within 72 hours unless your responsible clinician tells them you might be a danger to yourself or other people if you are allowed to leave. If this happens, it will be another six months before your nearest relative will be able to tell the Hospital Managers again that they want you to leave, if you are still being kept in hospital then.

You can also ask a Tribunal to say you should no longer be kept in hospital.



What treatment will I be given?

Your responsible clinician and other hospital staff will talk to you about any treatment that you need for your mental disorder. In most cases, you will have to accept their advice.

If it is more than one month since you went onto supervised community treatment, special rules apply to medicine and drug treatment for your mental disorder.

If it is more than three months since you first had medicine or drug treatment while you were in hospital or on supervised community treatment, you cannot be given any medicine or drug if you say you do not want it, or are too ill to say whether you want it, unless an independent doctor agrees or it is an emergency.

An independent doctor may already have talked to you and said that the treatment is right for you before you were recalled to hospital. If so, the staff can give you that treatment. Otherwise, an independent doctor will be asked to visit you and talk to staff at the hospital who know you. The doctor will talk to you and decide if the treatment is right for you.

This independent doctor is called a SOAD (Second Opinion Appointed Doctor) and is appointed by an independent Commission which monitors how the Mental Health Act is used.

There are different rules for some special treatments, like electro-convulsive therapy (ECT). If the staff think you need one of these special treatments, the rules will be explained to you and you will be given another leaflet.

How can I get back onto community treatment order?

You may be able to go back onto supervised community treatment when you are well enough, but your responsible clinician will want to talk to you about why you had to be recalled to hospital and whether supervised community treatment can meet your needs for treatment and care. You should talk to your responsible clinician if you feel you are ready to try supervised community treatment again.

What is a Tribunal and what happens?

The Tribunal is an independent panel which can decide whether you should be allowed to leave the hospital. It will hold a meeting with you and with staff from the hospital who know you. This meeting is called a "hearing". You can ask someone else to come to the hearing to help you, if you want. Before the hearing, the members of the Tribunal will read reports from the hospital about you and your care. One of the members of the Tribunal will also come to talk to you.

When can I apply to the Tribunal?

The Hospital Managers will automatically ask the Tribunal to look at your case because your community treatment order has been revoked.

You can apply yourself to the Tribunal once at any time in the first six months you are kept in hospital after your community treatment order was revoked. You may then apply once at any time during the second six months, and then once during every year that you are kept in hospital after that.

If your nearest relative told the Hospital Managers that they wanted you to be allowed to leave hospital, but your responsible clinician said you were not allowed to leave, your nearest relative can also apply to the Tribunal. Your nearest relative must do this within 28 days of being told that your responsible clinician did not think you should be allowed to leave hospital staff.

If you want to apply to the Tribunal you can write to:

The Tribunals Service
PO BOX 8793
5th Floor
Leicester, LE1 8BN
Tel. 0845 2232022

You can ask a solicitor to write to the Tribunal for you and help you at the hearing. The hospital and the Law Society have a list of solicitors who specialise in this. You will not have to pay for help from a solicitor with this. It is free of charge under the Legal Aid scheme.

Help from an independent mental health advocate

You are entitled to help from an independent mental health advocate if you want it. These advocates are independent of people involved in your care. They can help you get information about your care and treatment, why you are being kept in hospital, what it means and what your rights are. They can come to see you and help you understand what you are told by people involved in your care and treatment. If you want, they can help you talk to these people or they can talk to them for you. They can also help you with the Tribunal.

You can contact the independent mental health advocacy service yourself. There should be a telephone where you can contact the advocacy service and talk to them in private. You can ask a member of staff where this telephone is.

If you do not want to contact the advocacy service yourself, you can ask a member of staff to contact the advocacy service for you. You can also ask your nearest relative to contact the advocacy service for you.

Letting your nearest relative know

A copy of this leaflet will be given to the person the Mental Health Act says is your nearest relative.

There is a list of people in the Mental Health Act who are treated as your relatives. Normally, the person who comes highest in that list is your nearest relative. The hospital staff can give you a leaflet which explains this and what rights your nearest relative has in connection with your care and treatment.

If you do not want this person to receive a copy of the leaflet, please tell your nurse or another member of staff.

Changing your nearest relative

If you do not think this person is suitable to be your nearest relative, you can apply to the County Court for someone else to be treated as your nearest relative instead. The hospital staff can give you a leaflet that explains this.

Your letters

All letters sent to you while you are in hospital will be given to you. You can send letters to anyone except someone who has said they do not want to get letters from you. Letters to these people can be stopped by the hospital staff.

Code of Practice

There is a Code of Practice that gives advice to the staff in the hospital about the Mental Health Act and treating people for mental disorder. The staff have to consider what the Code says when they take decisions about your care. You can ask to see a copy of the Code, if you want.

How do I complain?

If you want to complain about anything to do with your care and treatment in hospital, please speak to a member of staff. They may be able to sort the matter out. They can also give you information about the hospital's complaints procedure, which you can use to try to sort out your complaint locally. They can also tell you about any other people who can help you make a complaint, for example an independent mental health advocate (see above).

If you do not feel that the hospital complaints procedure can help you, you can complain to an independent Commission. This is called the Care Quality Commission and it monitors how the Mental Health Act is used, to make sure it is used correctly and that patients are cared for properly while they are in hospital. The hospital staff can give you a leaflet explaining how to contact the Commission.

Further help and information

If there is anything you do not understand about your care and treatment, a member of staff will try to help you. Please ask a member of staff to explain if there is anything in this leaflet you do not understand or if you have other questions that this leaflet has not answered.

Please ask if you would like a printed copy of this leaflet.



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