



Treat me well

Your rights in hospital



What is this booklet about?



People need to go into hospital for lots of reasons.



Being in hospital can make anyone feel stressed or worried.



It is important that doctors and nurses to make sure people with a learning disability get the support they need.



You have rights in hospital which can help you.



What is a law?



A law is a rule that everyone in the country has to follow.



Everyone must make sure they do not break the law, including doctors and nurses.



What is a right?



A right is something you are entitled to because it is the law.



If someone stops you from getting your rights, they might get in trouble.



1. You have the same right to good care in hospital as every other person.



Hospitals are big places.



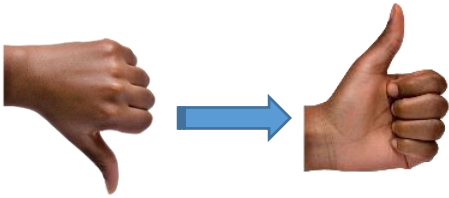
They do things in a set way for all their patients.



For most people, the way the hospital does things is OK.



But sometimes people with a learning disability find that the way the hospital does things is not good for them.



People with a learning disability often need the hospital to change the way they do things.



They may need the hospital to give them extra support.



You have the right to ask the hospital to change the way they do things to make it easier for you.



It is the law.



The Equality Act 2010 is **the law** which says disabled people must get **reasonable adjustments**.



Reasonable adjustments in hospital are helpful changes to the way the hospital works with disability.



Please read our Easy Read scroll about the Equality Act to find out more.



2. You have the right to information you can understand in hospital.



Having information gives you power.



It can help you understand your treatment.



You can get information from things like talking, letters and leaflets.



People with a learning disability may need changes to information to make it easy to understand.



People working in hospitals must ask you how you need to be given information.



They must share what they find out with other staff looking after you in the hospital.



It is the law.



The Accessible Information Standard says all staff working in health and social care must give you information you can understand.



Please read our Easy Read scroll about the Accessible Information Standard to find out more.



3. You have the right to get support to make decisions in hospital.



Making decisions is a big part of having control over your life.



Decisions can be about everyday things, like what to wear.



Or they can be about big things, like whether to have an operation.



When you are in hospital, you must get the support you need to make decisions.



Hospital staff can help you to make decisions by giving you information or talking to you about what is happening.



Nobody else should make decisions about your treatment unless they have decided you are unable to make the decision.



It is the law.



The Mental Capacity Act 2005 says adults should have support to make as many decisions as possible about their lives.



Please read our Easy Read scroll about the Mental Capacity Act to find out more.



Next time you are in hospital, remember your three important rights:



1. The right to be given good healthcare in hospital like anyone else



2. The right to information you can understand in hospital



3. The right to get support to make decisions for yourself in hospital



Where can you go to for more information?



You can visit the Mencap website to find out more:



www.mencap.org.uk/health

Please read our other guides:



Know your rights: Getting the support you need in hospital



Know your rights: Sorting out problems with your hospital care



Thank you to PhotoSymbols for the pictures in this guide.