

## ADMISSION TO HOSPITAL FOR ASSESSMENT

(Section 2 of the Mental Health Act 1983)

1. Patient's name	
2. Name of the person in charge of your care (your "responsible clinician")	
3. Name of hospital and ward	

### Why am I in hospital?

You are being kept in this hospital under section 2 of the Mental Health Act 1983. You have been examined by two doctors and they think that you have a mental disorder and you must stay in hospital so that the person in charge of your care (your responsible clinician) can find out what is wrong and how to help you.

### How long will I be here?

You can be kept here for up to 28 days.

During this time you must not leave 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.

If you were already being kept in hospital under section 4 of the Mental Health Act, then the time you have already been in hospital counts as part of the 28 days.

In your case the 28 days end on:

Date:

## What happens next?

Your responsible clinician will tell you if they think you are well enough to leave hospital. This could be at any time during the 28 days.

Your responsible clinician may decide that you need to be in hospital for longer than 28 days, in which case you may be kept in hospital under section 3 of the Mental Health Act instead. They must make this decision before the 28 days are up. If this happens, you will be given another leaflet that explains what it means.

## What treatment will I be given?

Your responsible clinician and other members of staff will talk to you about any treatment they think you need. In most cases you will have to accept their advice.

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.

## Can I appeal?

Yes, you can appeal against the decision to keep you in hospital under section 2.

To do this, you can ask the Hospital Managers to let you leave. 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 be kept in hospital. They may want to talk to you before deciding whether to let you leave.

You can write to the Hospital Managers at:

Or you can ask a member of staff to help you contact the Hospital Managers.

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. You can only do this during the first 14 days of the 28 days you can be kept in hospital.

## 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.

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

The Tribunals Service  
PO BOX 8793  
5th Floor  
Leicester  
LE1 8BN  
Tel. 0300 123 2201

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.

The telephone number for the advocacy service is:

0300 123 4044

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.

In your case, we have been told that your nearest relative is:

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 another copy of this leaflet for someone else.