Visiting

This fact sheet is about your right to have visitors when you are detained in hospital.
Visiting

Key facts

- You can have visitors.
- Your visitors can be very important in giving you support.
- There are different rules for different wards.
- There will be things your visitors can and can not bring you.
- The staff and your Independent Mental Health Advocate can help you understand this.
Can I have visitors?

- You can have visitors if you are being detained in hospital.
- There are lots of different types of wards in mental health hospitals.
- Different wards may have different rules for visitors. You should ask what the rules are on the ward where you are detained.

When can they visit?

- Some wards may have fixed visiting times. Others may let people visit at anytime.
- Your family and friends can get information about visiting from the staff on the ward.
- If you have visitors you might want to ask if you can meet in a private room, rather than meeting in the day room where other people will be.
Can I visit my family?

- If you are detained in hospital, you cannot leave unless your responsible clinician gives you permission.
- It may be possible to visit your friends or family with staff from the ward for a set amount of time.
- For more information on leaving hospital see our fact sheet called: **Leaving the ward.**
Can I ask my visitors to bring me in things?

- If there is anything you have forgotten, you can ask your visitors to bring these in for you.
- Your visitors may be able to bring food and drink in for you.
- There may be some items that your visitors are not allowed to bring in to you.
- The staff on the ward should be able to tell your family and friends about the things that they are not allowed to bring.
What if I don’t want visitors?

- There may be times when you want visits to be for a shorter time or less often.
- You may decide that you don’t want visits for a period of time.
- You can tell a nurse or a doctor if you are not happy with your visiting arrangements.
Where in the code?

This easy read fact sheet comes from:

- DH Mental Health Act 1983: Code of Practice, Chp 11 'Visiting patients in hospital' pages 83–86

Download the code:

Download the easy read fact sheets:
www.nhs.uk/easy-mentalhealthact

Download the easy read glossary:
www.nhs.uk/glossary

More information:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-security-psychiatric-services-directions