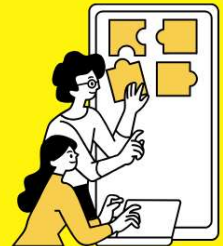


# YOUR RIGHTS AS AN

## INFORMAL PATIENT

### AGREEING TO STAY

As an informal patient you are agreeing to treatment in hospital for your mental health. Being an informal patient means you cannot appeal against this, as you are voluntarily staying in hospital



### WHY IS THIS DIFFERENT TO BEING DETAINED?

Staying in hospital as an informal patient is different to being detained under the Mental Health Act - if you are sectioned you would have to stay in hospital and have treatment whether you agree or not.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?

You will get treatment in a hospital for your mental health. When you arrive on the ward you should be given information you can read and understand.

You should be involved in any decision's made and be part of meetings about you.

### YOUR RIGHTS

You have the right to refuse treatment.

You have the right to leave, but you are still expected to follow your treatment plan. If the hospital feel you are too unwell you might get sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

You have the right to see your letters and have visits from family or friends. and access your phone or internet



### COMPLAINTS

If you want to complain and don't know how, ask your care staff what you need to do to make a complaint

SEE THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT CODE OF PRACTICE The Mental Health Act Code of Practice should be followed by all professionals who are involved in your care and treatment. A copy of the code should be available on the ward for you to see

