

TALKING TO OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT YOUR CARE

If possible, the staff will talk to other people who are important to you, for example family or carers, when making decisions about your care.



I DON'T LIKE THE CARE OR TREATMENT THAT I AM GETTING

Tell the people caring for you in hospital how you feel.

If you are still very unhappy about what is happening, you can ask to speak to an independent person from the Court of Protection.



I FEEL WORRIED ABOUT HAVING A CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

Tell a member of staff how you feel so that they can support you as much as possible.



MENTAL CAPACITY ACT AND BEST INTEREST DECISIONS EASY READ LEAFLET

MENTAL CAPACITY ACT AND CONSENT

You may need someone to sit and help you with this leaflet.



WHAT IS THE MENTAL CAPACITY ACT?

The Mental Capacity Act is a law that tells people what to do if you are unable to make a decision for yourself.



CONSENT

Consent is where you are asked if you agree to something and you can say yes or no.

To give consent you need to be able to

1. **understand** information about the decision you are making
2. **remember** the information long enough to decide
3. **think about** the decision you want to make and why
4. **let other** people know what you have decided



Being able to do all 4 of these things is called '**having capacity to consent**'.

If you are unable to make a decision it is called '**lacking capacity**'.



BEST INTEREST

If the people caring for you say that you 'lack capacity' to decide about your care and treatment, they must think very carefully and make decisions for you. This is called '**acting in your best interest**'.

The people caring for you must listen to you when they make the decisions.

When a decision is made for you it must give you as much freedom as possible.



ADVOCACY

If you do not have any family or friends, someone called an **advocate** should support you with important care or treatment decisions.