

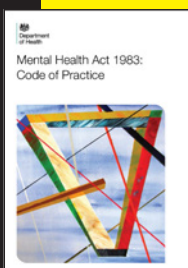


Department
of Health

An easy read fact sheet

Sharing your information with professionals

This fact sheet is
about your rights
and sharing your
information with
professionals.



Know your rights

The Mental Health Act
Code of Practice

Sharing your information with professionals

Key facts

- * Sometimes the hospital can share your information.
- * They should ask you first.
- * But they can share some information even if you say no.
- * Your **Independent Mental Health Advocate** can help you understand this.



Who your information is shared with?

Sometimes it is important to share information about you with professionals, organisations and other people.

They might be:

- Other healthcare professionals
- Housing services
- Social Services
- Independent Mental Health Advocates (IMHA)
- The Ministry of Justice.
- Family, friends and carers. See our fact sheet: **Sharing your information with family, friends and carers.**



Will I be asked before my information is shared?

- If you are able to give permission for your information to be shared (**capacity**) you should be asked first.



Sometimes confidential information can be shared without your permission.

- Your information can only be shared with certain people. There always has to be a reason for sharing your information.

Confidential information can be shared without your permission for example:

- When a report is sent to a **Tribunal**.
A Tribunal is a group of people who check you are getting better and need to keep getting care and treatment. You can see these reports before they are sent to the Tribunal **unless the tribunal decide you can't**
- When a report has to be shared to protect a child's safety.



Confidential information can also be shared without your agreement when you:

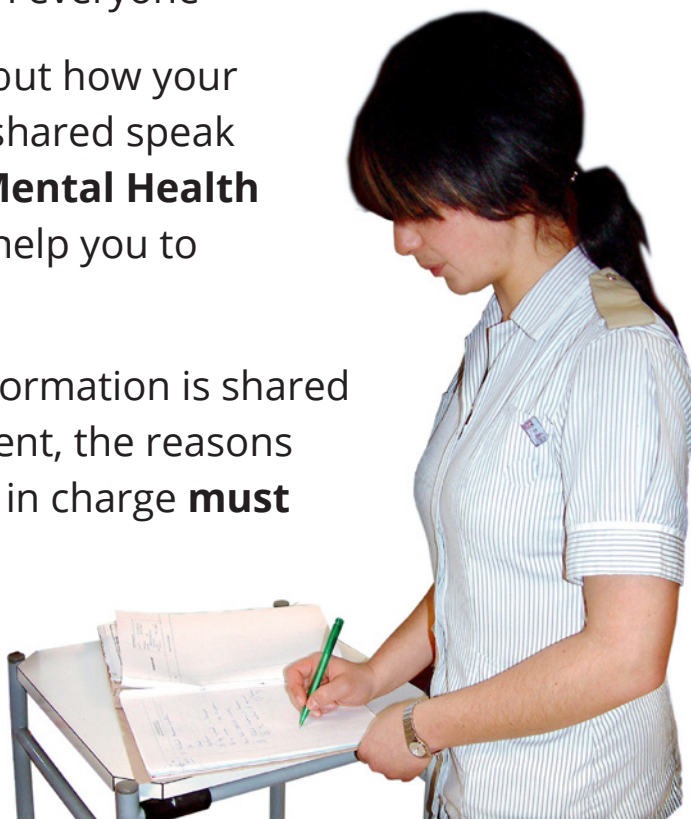
- Are given medical treatment without your consent
- Are taken to a hospital or anywhere else under the Mental Health Act 1983
- Have left hospital without agreement.



Confidential information can be shared with some people without your agreement, but it cannot be shared with everyone

If you are worried about how your information is being shared speak to an **Independent Mental Health Advocate** who can help you to understand.

When confidential information is shared without your agreement, the reasons and names of people in charge **must be written down**.





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Where in the code?

This easy read fact sheet comes from:

- DH Mental Health Act 1983: Code of Practice
Chp 10 'Confidentiality and information
sharing' pages 61-65

Download the code:

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/
attachment_data/file/396918/Code_of_Practice.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/396918/Code_of_Practice.pdf)

Download the easy read fact sheets:

www.nhs.uk/easy-mentalhealthact

Download the easy read glossary:

www.nhs.uk/glossary

More information:

Rethink

[www.rethink.org/living-with-mental-illness/rights-
restrictions/confidentiality/about](http://www.rethink.org/living-with-mental-illness/rights-restrictions/confidentiality/about)

Confidentiality NHS code of practice DH 2003

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/
confidentiality-nhs-code-of-practice](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/confidentiality-nhs-code-of-practice)