

PATIENT PASSPORT

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR COMPLETION

This passport has been designed so that the healthcare professionals are made aware of patient's needs and requirements caused by long term neurological condition so they can provide you with the best possible healthcare whenever you visit hospital.

When you have completed and printed out your passport, take it with you whenever you visit hospital and show it to the doctors, nurses and any other healthcare professionals you come into contact with. If you are admitted to hospital, ask the nurses to keep your passport with your notes at the bottom of your bed.

The passport is not expected to hold all the available information about the person, however please complete it as fully as possible. It should however contain the detail to enable staff within health service to understand your everyday needs. The Patient Passport makes a connection with those who know you least (staff in hospitals) with those people who know you best (carers/ parents /care co-coordinators /specialist nurses/ community nurses/therapists etc.)

The Patient Passport is intended to help the staff from health care services to be able to offer you the right help at the point of contact with the services and provide the necessary care and treatment needed during the person's stay in hospital.

DEFINITIONS

- 1. Consent;** This is recognised to be an area of concern within practice. The Mental Capacity Act (2005) provides a statutory framework to empower and protect vulnerable people who are not able to make their own decisions. It makes it clear who can take decisions, in which situations, and how they should go about this. It enables people to plan ahead for a time when they may lose capacity.
- 2. Advance Decision;** An advance decision (sometimes known as an advance decision to refuse treatment, an ADRT, or a living will) is a decision you can make now to refuse a specific type of treatment at some time in the future.

It lets your family, carers and health professionals know whether you want to refuse specific treatments in the future. This means they will know your wishes if you are unable to make or communicate those decisions yourself. Advanced decisions can only be used to refuse specific treatments and cannot be used to demand future care.

The treatments you are deciding to refuse must all be named in the advance decision.

You may want to refuse a treatment in some situations, but not others. If this is the case, you need to be clear about all the circumstances in which you want to refuse this treatment.

You can refuse a treatment that could potentially keep you alive (known as life-sustaining treatment). This includes treatments such as ventilation and cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), which may be used if you cannot breathe by yourself or if your heart stops. You may want to discuss this with a doctor or nurse who knows about your medical history before you make up your mind.

An advance decision is not the same as an advance statement. Read about advance statements.

Deciding to refuse a treatment is not the same as asking someone to end your life or to help you end your life. Euthanasia and assisted suicide are illegal under English law.

3. Lasting Power of Attorney; A lasting power of attorney (LPA) is a way of giving someone you trust the legal authority to make decisions on your behalf if you lack mental capacity at some time in the future or no longer wish to make decisions for yourself.

There are two types of LPA:

1. property and financial affairs
2. personal welfare.

1. Property and financial affairs

This can be used while someone still has mental capacity. An attorney (the person who makes decisions for you) can generally make decisions on things such as:

- buying and selling property
- paying the mortgage
- investing money
- paying bills
- arranging repairs to property.

2. Personal welfare

This covers decisions about healthcare as well as personal welfare and can only be used once a person has lost mental capacity. An attorney can generally make decisions about things such as:

- where you should live
- your medical care
- what you should eat
- who you should have contact with
- what kind of social activities you should take part in.

You can restrict or specify the types of decisions your attorney can make or you can allow them to make all decisions on your behalf.

You may be asked to provide evidence of a Personal Welfare Lasting Power of Attorney on admission to hospital by the staff.

If you're setting up a property and financial affairs LPA, your attorney must keep accounts and make sure their money is kept separate from your money.

You can request regular details of how much is spent and how much income you have. This offers you an extra layer of protection. If you lose mental capacity, these details can be sent to your solicitor or a family member.

21st October 2015