

Patient information

Best interest meeting

Information for patient next of kin.

What is a Best Interest Meeting?

A Best Interest Meeting is a multidisciplinary meeting that is arranged for a specific decision around a patient's care / treatment, when a person is deemed to lack the mental capacity to make that decision for themselves.

Who Assesses Mental capacity?

An appropriate health care professional will assess a person's mental capacity to make a specific decision by following Government legislation as specified in the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

What to expect at the meeting?

The meeting will be an open forum for all relevant parties to provide the relevant information with regard to the specific decision that needs to be made relating to their care/treatment. This meeting will enable a fully informed decision to be made about a particular aspect of the persons care or treatment.

Who will be there?

Healthcare professionals who may be relevant to the specific decision for e.g Doctor, Nurse, Speech and Language therapist, Dietitian, Physiotherapist, Occupational therapist, Nurse (and Adult social care worker if meeting is regarding discharge destination).

What do I need to prepare/bring to the Best Interest Meeting?

It's an open forum, so please bring any questions that you feel are relevant to the specific decision or that you may be concerned about.

Can I bring someone with me?

Yes, you are welcome to bring a maximum of two extra family/friend/carer representatives to the meeting to support the decision maker.

Sometimes decisions are able to be made at the meeting however sometimes it may be necessary for you to go away and reflect on the information given before a final decision is made.

Who makes the decision?

If the decision is in relation to health (e.g. long term feeding) the consultant will be the decision maker unless there is an appointed lasting power of attorney for health and welfare including life sustaining treatment.

If the decision is regarding discharge location the adult social care worker will be the decision maker unless there is an appointed power of attorney for finance and property. If there is an appointed power of attorney for finance and property the adult social care worker will still be involved to help coordinate and plan a discharge destination in the best interests of the person. If there is no registered next of kin an IMCA (Independent mental capacity advocate) will be assigned to help make a decision that is in the best interest of the patient.

What if we don't agree?

Sometimes it is not possible for everyone to come to an agreement on what they feel is in the persons best interests. In these situations all of the information will be looked and rationale given as to why there are disagreements. The consultant will make a decision for health or adult social care worker for discharge destination based on all of the information that they feel is in the persons best interests unless there is an appointed lasting power of attorney for health and welfare or finance and property including life sustaining treatment. If next of kin are not in agreement with final decision there is a right to approach the Court of Protection regarding complex decisions.

Sources of information

Mental Capacity Act 2005 Code of Practice, 2007 TSO - www.guardianship.gov.uk
Making decisions: A guide for family, friends and unpaid carers -
www.velindrecc.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/1087/MCA%20BOOKLET%20TWO%20GUIDE%20FOR%20FAMILY%20AND%20FRIENDS.pdf

Important information

This patient information is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments, please contact the Patient Experience Team – Tel: (01323) 417400 Ext: 5860 or by email at: esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net

Hand hygiene

The trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available at the patient bedside for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats

If you require any of the Trust leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department.

Tel: (01424) 755255 Ext: 2620

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

Reference

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:
Stroke Specialist Dietitian, Stroke Specialist Speech and Language Therapist and Safe Guarding Nurse Specialist
The Clinical Specialty/Unit that have agreed this patient information leaflet:
Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Department of Speech and Language Therapy and Safe Guarding.

Next review date: May 2022
Responsible clinician/author: Safe Guarding Nurse Specialists and Stroke Specialist Dietitian

© East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust – www.esht.nhs.uk