



Detained patients and leave

Introduction

As a patient who has been detained under the Mental Health Act 1983, you may not leave the hospital without the written permission of the consultant psychiatrist.

However, as your care and treatment progresses, your team will discuss with you different types of leave from the ward. This could be escorted or unescorted leave, depending on how well you are. It is likely that your leave status will change from escorted to unescorted as you first begin to recover.

All leave from the ward must be agreed by the consultant psychiatrist and recorded in your clinical record. You will be given a copy of your leave entitlement. We have an enclosed garden which all patients can access.

Types of leave

Your care team will consider different types of leave. They will increase the time and vary the location depending on how well you are. The main types of leave are:

- **Escorted leave** - generally short periods of leave with staff, allowing you to access the local area.
- **Occupational therapy leave** - leave with a member of the ward occupational therapy team to enable participation in groups or community activities that are considered to have therapeutic value for you.
- **Escorted leave with family/friends** - a time limited period during which you will be expected to remain with your family/friends who accompany you out of hospital.
- **Unescorted leave** - an agreed period of time that will increase in duration as you progress towards discharge.
- **Overnight leave** - very occasionally you may be given overnight leave to your home or the homes of family/friends as part of your individualised recovery plan.
- **Extended leave** - as you progress towards discharge, we may agree an extended period of leave from the hospital, allowing for a quick return to the ward in the event of relapse.

Going on leave

We want your leave to go well, and for you to return safely. We will provide you with a card with the ward address and telephone numbers before you go on leave so that you can easily contact us in the event of a problem.

There is an expectation that you will return to the ward within the time that we have agreed with you. It is important that if you are delayed in returning for any reason, you contact the ward immediately so that we can discuss your safe return.

If you don't return on time

Hospital staff have a duty of care and a legal responsibility to ensure that you are safe. If you fail to return from leave on time, ward staff will:

- search the hospital grounds
- try and make contact with you, your family and friends
- register you as 'missing' with the local police, who will be asked to help ensure your safe return

Your care team will continue to review how you progress with your leave and discuss appropriate increases in time allowances as you recover.

If you would like to have information translated into a different language, please contact the Equality and Diversity Team at: EqualityandInclusion@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

Arabic يُرجى الاتصال بنا إذا كنتم ترغبون في الحصول على المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو بتنسيق مختلف.

আপনি এই তথ্য অন্য ভাষায় বা আলাদা আকারে **Bengali** পেতে চাইলে অনুগ্রহ করে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।
Urdu اگر آپ یہ معلومات دیگر زبان یا مختلف فارمیٹ میں چاہتے ہیں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

Chinese 若要以其他語言或格式提供這些資訊，請與我們聯繫

Polish Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, skontaktuj się z name.

Portuguese Queira contactar-nos se pretender as informações noutra idioma ou num formato diferente.

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