

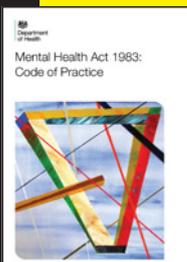
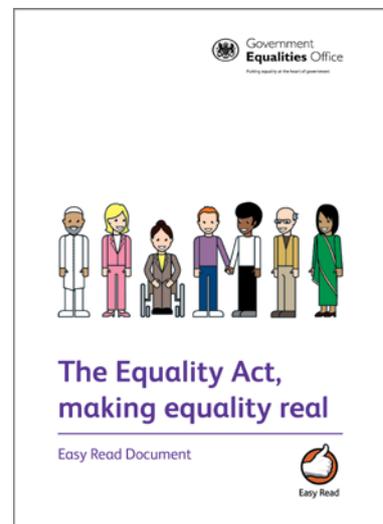


Department
of Health

An easy read fact sheet

Everyone is equal

This fact sheet is
about people being
equal and your rights.



Know your rights

The Mental Health Act
Code of Practice

Everyone is equal

Key facts

- * **The Equality Act** is a law.
- * The Equality Act says all people should be treated fairly.
- * The Equality Act says if you have a disability they might have to change things for you.
- * You can ask staff at the hospital how they make sure they follow the Equality Act.



You cannot discriminate against a person for the following reasons:

- Disability, including many people with mental health conditions
- Age
- Race
- Whether a person is lesbian, gay or bisexual
- Gender
- When a person has changed their sex, religion or belief. This includes people who don't have a religion or belief
- Women having a baby or women just after they have had a baby.

If you are Detained **you still have rights under the Equality Act.**



If I am detained what are my rights under the Equality Act?

- Staff should get to know you and understand how best to support you.
- They might need to change how they do things to help you with your disability. These are called **'Reasonable Adjustments.'**

Here are some examples of Reasonable Adjustments:

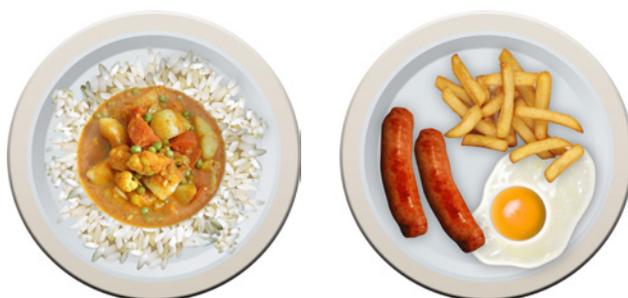
- **Jane** is deaf and uses sign language to communicate. Staff need to provide an interpreter or look at having a staff member who also knows sign language.
- **Dean** uses a wheelchair to get around. The hospital will need to make sure that the building has lots of space and flat surfaces.



You may have other things you want to talk about.

Some of these could be:

- The kind of food you need



- Have the right staff available for you



- Staff knowing your language and your religious festivals.



Other questions to ask staff

The Mental Health Act Code of Practice says that hospitals must have a **human rights** and **equality policy**.

The hospital **human rights** and **equality policy** must say how the hospital will do what the law says. It's a good idea to ask staff how they will do this.



Here are some questions you might want to ask:

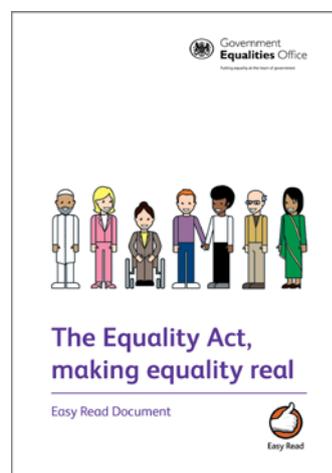
- How will you get to know me?
- How will you give me information in a way that I can understand?
- How will you help me have my rights under the Equality Act?

The easy read Equality Act

Here is a link to the Equality Act in Easy Read.

www.bit.ly/easy-read-equality-act

This is a really useful booklet to help you understand your rights.





Department
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Where in the code?

This easy read fact sheet comes from:

- DH Mental Health Act 1983: Code of Practice Chapter 3 'Equality and human rights' pages 17–20

Download the code:

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:

Equality Act 2010 Easy Read Version

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85012/easy-read.pdf