Mental health admissions glossary

A guide to some of the terminology you may hear when a person with dementia is admitted to a mental health hospital. You can use this alongside our leaflet on mental health admissions for people with dementia, which you can find at dementiauk.org/mental-health-admissions

- **Advocate or independent mental health advocate (IMHA):** a person trained to help people exercise their rights under the Mental Health Act (1983). They should listen to the person and can speak on their behalf at meetings. It is your right to request an IMHA and the ward must give you contact details. You can also contact independent advocacy organisations directly, such as:
  - The Advocacy People theadvocacypersonalcharta.org.uk
  - POHWER pohwer.net
  - Voiceability voiceability.org

- **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS):** Deprivation of Liberty refers to someone being kept in a locked room or ward; being constantly supervised; and not being allowed to go anywhere without permission and close supervision.

  It is different from being admitted to hospital under the Mental Health Act (otherwise known as ‘being sectioned’: see p2) as it can apply to anyone who lacks the capacity to make an informed decision about their care and treatment – not just to people with mental health conditions.

  If someone is deprived of liberty they are protected by Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). The key elements are that the person can only be deprived of liberty if:
  - it is in their best interests
  - there is no less restrictive option
  - they have someone to represent them
  - there is a legal right of appeal
  - the situation is reviewed regularly

  For more information, please visit ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/factsheets/fs62_deprivation_of_liberty_safeguards_fcs.pdf

- **Mental Capacity Act (2005):** a law that establishes whether a person has the ‘mental capacity’ to make their own decisions. If not, someone else can make decisions for them in their best interests. You can read our information on mental capacity and decision-making at dementiauk.org/capacity-decision-making

- **Mental Health Act (1983):** a law that allows people to be kept in hospital if they are mentally unwell and need treatment. For more information, please visit nhs.uk/mental-health/social-care-and-your-rights/mental-health-and-the-law/mental-health-act
• Mental Health Act assessment: a formal assessment of whether a person can be admitted to hospital without their consent

• Mental Health Tribunal: a hearing where a person who is detained under the Mental Health Act or their nearest relative can apply to have their section lifted and be discharged from hospital

• Multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meeting: a meeting with the different professionals on the ward (and the person’s social worker, if possible) to review a person’s care and plan what will happen next. Usually these happen weekly. Families should be invited

• Nearest relative: a family member who has certain responsibilities and rights when someone is in hospital, such as the right to be given information about the person’s care and treatment and to request their discharge. For information on who is the nearest relative, please visit mind.org.uk/information-support/legal-rights/nearest-relative/about-the-nearest-relative

• Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS): a service providing advice, information and support to people in hospital and their family members who have concerns about their care and treatment. For more information, please visit nhs.uk/nhs-services/hospitals/what-is-pals-patient-advice-and-liaison-service

• Section: the specific part of the Mental Health Act (1983) that the person is admitted under. Each section has different rules to keep a person in hospital – for example, Section 2 allows them to be kept in hospital for up to 28 days; Section 3 allows them to be kept in hospital for up to six months initially but can be renewed

• Section 117 aftercare: free support that some people qualify for after they leave hospital (eg help with care home costs)

• Section 17 leave: planned leave from hospital which is used to see how a person manages at home or in the community

• Voluntary admission: where someone agrees to go into hospital of their own accord, also known as an informal admission

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Support for you

To speak to a dementia specialist Admiral Nurse about mental health admissions or any other aspect of dementia, please call our free Helpline on **0800 888 6678** (Monday–Friday 9am–9pm, Saturday and Sunday 9am–5pm) or email **helpline@dementiauk.org**

To book a phone or video call appointment with an Admiral Nurse in our virtual clinics, please visit **dementiauk.org/book-an-appointment**

For more information and advice on all aspects of dementia, please visit **dementiauk.org**

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