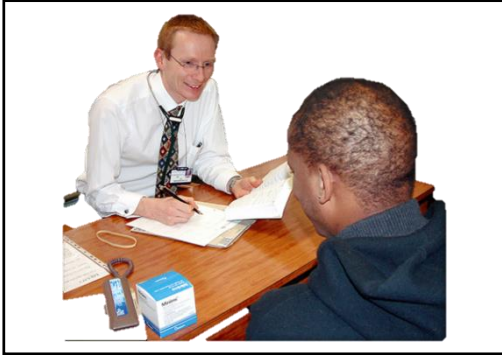


Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy



What is Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA)?



POhWER advocates support people who have been deemed to lack mental capacity by a doctor or social worker.



Lacking mental capacity means people think someone is unable to make key decisions about their life.



An advocate might support someone who doesn't have appropriate family or friends.



It is a person's legal right to be supported by an advocate if they are deemed to lack capacity and have no one else they can rely on.

What can an advocate do?



An advocate will aim to understand a person's views and beliefs and will use this to write a report about a person.



The report can then be used by doctors and decision-makers to reach a decision about care and treatment that they think is in the best interests of the person.



Sometimes an advocate will look at options which are different to the ones the professionals have suggested.



The advocate will ensure the person is included in any decisions about them and fight for their voice to be heard.

IMCAs can challenge decisions made by doctors and social workers.

When can someone have an IMCA?

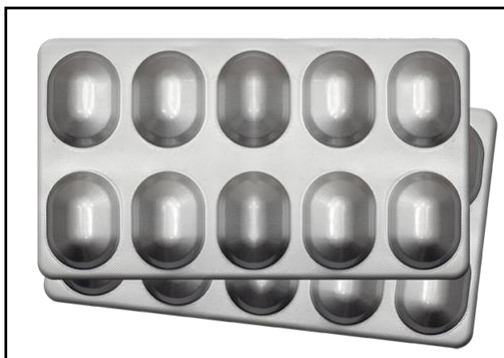


A person must be deemed to lack mental capacity.

AND



A decision needs to be made about medical treatment or a change in accommodation.



Serious medical treatment applies when an NHS body gives, takes away or withholds treatment.



A change of accommodation applies when an NHS body or local council decides to move a person to a hospital or other accommodation.

An IMCA can support when:



A person is going through a Safeguarding procedure.



When a person is going through a safeguarding procedure they can have an advocate and family to support them.



An IMCA can support when someone is going through a care review – this means certain changes may be being made to their care plan.

What do these words mean?



Advocacy

This is about understanding your rights and choices.



Advocate

An advocate is a person who will help you to make sure your voice is heard.



Abuse

Abuse is anything that someone does to you on purpose that you do not like and haven't allowed them to do.

Examples include hurting you, saying things that upset you and touching you when you don't want them to.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a way of keeping people safe from abuse.



When someone reports that they have been abused this is investigated to find out what happened so that things can be done to stop it from happening again.

Access to Information



- We provide leaflets and information in a number of languages and formats: Easy Read, Large Print, audio and video.



- We have access to translation and interpreting services



- We use communication toolkits, Makaton and other signing techniques

Contact us



Telephone 0300 456 2370 (charged at local rate)



Text the word pohwer with your name and number to 81025



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