

If you or your carer needs help while you are in the hospital, ask one of the nurses to either call the Learning Disability Co-ordinator on ext 8159 or PALS on ext 8338.



More information for people with learning disabilities and their carers can be found on the Trust website at: [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk)



Also available in this series:

- Getting help in hospital
- Having a blood test
- Having an X-ray
- Having a scan
- Going to A&E
- Going to CDU
- What happens in pre-operative assessment
- Going into hospital
- Washing your hands

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Royal Berkshire **NHS**  
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An Easy Read booklet



# Giving consent

## Saying yes or no to an operation

If you are ill, your doctor (GP) may have advised you to go into hospital to have an operation or treatment to help you get better.



Before you have your treatment you or your carer will be asked to sign a form to say you are happy to go ahead with it.



This leaflet will tell you all about 'consenting' – agreeing to treatment.

You can give your agreement to treatments in different ways. You might offer your arm to a nurse to take blood. You might say yes, when the doctor or nurse asks you if they can examine you, or you or your carer can sign a form to say you know what is likely to happen during the operation and are happy to go ahead with it.



Before you agree to go ahead with treatment, you and your carer will probably want to ask some questions.

You can ask:

- What different treatments can you try?
- Are these treatments safe?
- Will the treatment definitely help?
- What if something goes wrong?
- What will happen if you decide you don't want the treatment?
- Is there more information you can have about the treatment?



You do not have to decide there and then if you are not sure you are happy to go ahead. You can ask for time to think about it and talk to your carer and family before deciding.



In an emergency, you may not be able to give your consent.

The doctors and nurses will try and help you and may give you treatment you haven't agreed to.

But this would only happen if you were very ill or hurt.

