Your stay in hospital
Section 4 Mental Health Act 1983

Your name

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Your hospital doctor is

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You have come to:

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Date you came to hospital

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You have been brought into hospital under Section 4 of the Mental Health Act 1983. This leaflet is to help you understand what this means.
Why am I in hospital?

A doctor says you are ill and need urgent treatment.

The doctors will try to find out what is wrong with you.

You will get help to make you feel better.

You can be kept in hospital because Section 4 of the Mental Health Act 1983 says so.

The Mental Health Act 1983 is a law. A law is like a rule.
How long will I be in hospital?

You can be kept in hospital for 72 hours. This is 3 full days.

The doctor will say when you can leave hospital.

If you try to leave before the doctor says it is ok, you can be stopped.

If you leave hospital before the doctor says it is ok, you will be brought back.
What happens next?

You will be examined by another doctor.

The doctor will decide if you still need to stay after 3 days.

Another part of the law called Section 2 or Section 3 of the Mental Health Act 1983 will allow your doctor to keep you in hospital longer.

You will be given a leaflet about this law if you have to stay in hospital.
The doctor may say it is ok for you to leave hospital. The doctor or your social worker will ask you what help you need when you leave.

If a second doctor does not examine you before the end of 3 days you can leave or stay in hospital.

Talk to your doctor about what you want to do.