

Helping patients stay safe in mental health hospitals

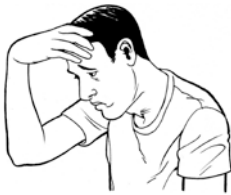
Easy read version of the report 'Sexual safety on mental health wards' (September 2018)



In 2017, we looked at NHS reports about how patients are kept safe in mental health hospitals.

We found that there were lots of cases of patients not being safe from others who said or did things to them in a sexual way that they did not want.

These are called **sexual assault** and **harassment incidents**.

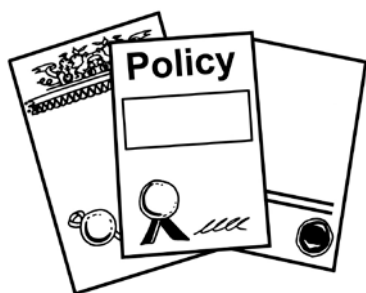


We decided to do some more work on this and find out how other mental health hospitals deal with these cases. We spoke with the managers and staff in hospitals, patients and charities.

We found that there is still a big problem:

1. Patients do not always feel safe.
2. People in charge of hospitals do not always tell patients how to keep safe, or do not know how to.
3. Many staff do not have the skills to deal with sexual assault and harassment incidents in the best way.
4. Sometimes hospitals do not tell other people about incidents. Or the reports do not say how the incident has affected the patient.
5. Sometimes hospitals and other health organisations do not work well together to keep patients safe.

What we think hospitals and other health organisations need to do

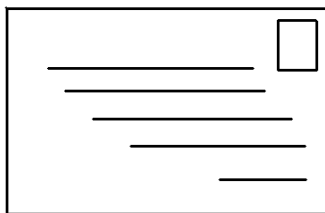


- Hospital staff should help patients to talk about any incidents and do something about it.
- People in charge of hospitals should help staff to do this by giving them training.
- Rules should be made to help hospitals deal with incidents in the right way.
- All hospitals, health organisations, councils, staff, patients and the police should work together to make sure that incidents are taken seriously.

You can help CQC to find out where care needs to improve.

You can tell us what things are like in your area by telling us about your experiences of health care – both good and bad – so we can take action to make sure that services improve.

How to contact CQC



If you would like this report in another format or language, or you would like to tell us something, you can contact us:

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#SexualSafetyMH