



# Our report on the Mental Health Act between April 2014 and March 2015

An Easy Read report of:  
**Monitoring the Mental Health Act  
in 2014/15**

EasyRead

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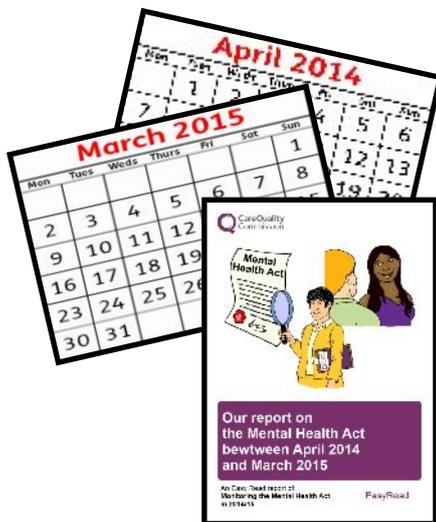
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# About this report

This is our 6th report about our checks on how services use the Mental Health Act.

This is the EasyRead version. For more details, please see the full report.

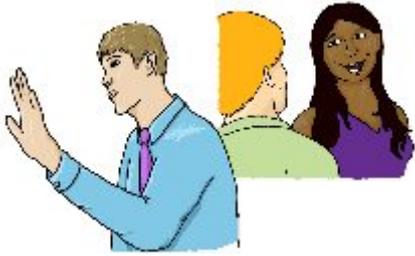


It says what we found out between April 2014 and March 2015.



## Our job at CQC

The Mental Health Act is the law that means people can be treated when they need it for their own or someone else's health and safety.



They can be given treatment even if they do not want to have it.



Many people have to stay in hospital to be treated. Some people can be treated at home.



The Mental Health Act has rules to protect people's rights. This is called the Code of Practice.



We check to make sure health and social care services use the rules properly to give people their rights and good, safe care.

## What we did last year



We visit people in 143 mental health hospitals.



We ask patients about their service and look at how good the service is.



Last year, just over half of the patients were being treated under the Mental Health Act.



Nearly 20,000 people were being treated in hospital.



We did nearly 1,300 visits and talked to nearly 6,000 patients.



Our doctors saw over 14,000 patients in hospital and at home to check people were being given the right treatment.



## What we found out



There is too much difference in the way services follow the Code of Practice



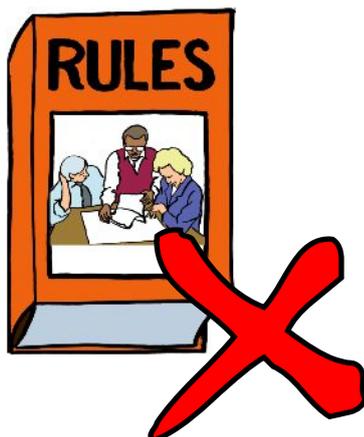
The Act was used more than ever before, 5,000 more times than last year.



We looked at how services used the Act and how services could get better.



We saw lots of services get better at giving people their rights after we visited.



But we still had some worries about the rules not being followed, you can read about these on the next page.

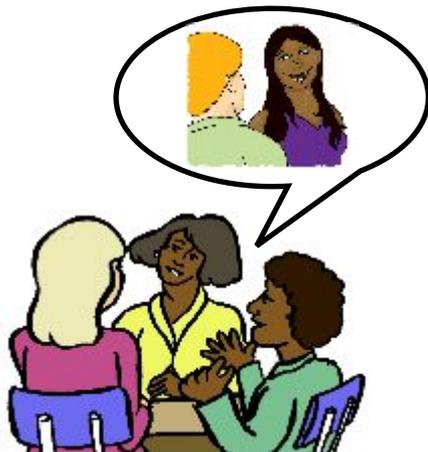


## Supporting patients to understand their rights

- 1 in 10 records about a patient did not say if they had been given information about their rights. Although this was a bit better than last year.



- 1 in 3 records did not say if staff had checked to see if a new patient could make a decision about taking medicines. This was about the same as last year.



- 1 in 4 records did not say whether patients had been involved in making their care plans. This was about the same as last year.



- Nearly 1 in 3 records did not show any plans about how a patient might leave the service. This was a bit better than last year.



- Patients have a right to independent advocates who can speak up for them. But 4 out of 5 wards did not keep a record of whether people received support from these advocates.



Over 1 in 3 wards had not had any training on using advocates.



## Next steps

Making sure mental health staff understand the Mental Health Act and what it does for patients is a big first job. We must then try to make sure they use it better.



This should help improve those problems above, that don't seem to have improved much since last year.



The government wants mental health services to be equal to other health services.



This was not true for a lot of the people we spoke to.



We will carry on checking to see how the Mental Health Act and the rules are being followed.



We will carry on helping services get better.



We will tell people about the good services we find.



We will take action against services who break the law or are not following the rules.



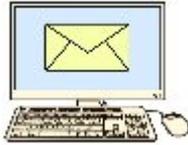
But we will not see a big change unless there is a big effort by everyone involved to make services better.

# How to contact CQC



Telephone our Customer Care Team on:

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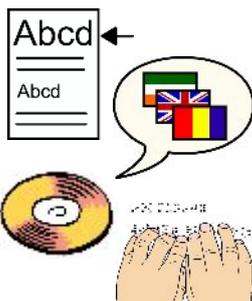
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