

# Covid 19: Emergency Self-Advocacy.





**Everyone has a right to healthcare,** even during a pandemic. We **can** go to the hospital if we can't manage Covid-19 symptoms.



**We must be assessed for medical need,**

**not**



age, ability, learning disability, autism, unrelated health needs, or what other people feel the length of our life might be.



Health professionals must consult with us and our advocate/s whenever possible (e.g. staff, family, interpreter, friend, P.A., partner, carer, or other volunteer).



No patient should be assumed to agree to a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate)



A patient who is unconscious, semi-conscious, in mental health crisis, or who does not understand cannot consent to a DNR order.



Objections to medical neglect may be blamed on feelings. It's not about feelings it's about human rights.

To decide who gets treatment:



Health professional must assess you how they would normally assess someone.

We don't want special treatment, just **fair consideration for treatment.**



**Decision**

Don't be pushed into making decision about your health care.



Big words can hide excuses. Be ready to ask to wait for an interpreter, to slow down, or to explain in plain language. If still unsure, ask,

**"How is this helping my chances of surviving Covid 19?"**

# Advocacy



Everyone usually has a right to be supported by a person of their choice.

You must say, "**I need support to help me access healthcare.**" Having support can sometimes be refused.



Someone outside the hospital can support you by mobile device. They can: -

A photograph of a hand holding a black pen, writing on a yellow form. The form has several lines for text. The text on the form is: Name *R. Smith*, Address *224 West St*, *Manchester*, *UK*, and Phone Number. The hand is positioned over the 'Manchester' line.

- Find out where you are.
- Who is in charge of your care and their contact details.
- Pass this information to your support.



Tell the hospital if you are being supported by someone to communicate, or self-advocate. You can write it on the form below:



"I, [your name],

consent to [their name/s]

advocating on my behalf during my hospital  
stay.

[Signature and date]"

This document was created by **The Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People** with the support of Bury People First and Photosymbols.

