

Our 'Epilepsy care – your rights' factsheets explain your rights and choices with regard to your epilepsy care and treatment. 'Rights' are in the NHS Constitution and the Handbook to the NHS Constitution, and you are entitled to them by law. Where we say 'you should', you may not have a legal right, but these are recommendations made in the NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) guideline on epilepsy.



You have a right to be treated with dignity and respect and to not be discriminated against.



You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect, in accordance with your human rights.
NHS Constitution

You have the right not to be unlawfully discriminated against in the provision of NHS services including on grounds of gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion, belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity or marital or civil partnership status. NHS Constitution



As well as the above rights, and professional codes in NHS services, the Equality Act 2010 protects people from discrimination, including on the basis of disability.

Under the Equality Act, someone has a disability if they have "a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities".

Epilepsy is a physical, long-term condition. People with epilepsy are protected under the Equality Act even if their seizures are controlled or if they don't consider themselves to be 'disabled'.

The Act covers healthcare and also education, employment, and access to goods and services, such as shops, banks and public transport. Under the Equality Act 2010, you do not have to disclose that you have a disability or that you are a carer for someone who does. However, if you do tell people this, for example an employer, they can make sure they treat you fairly, and avoid various different types of discrimination.

For more information visit:

equalityhumanrights.com/equality/equality-act-2010

epilepsysociety.org.uk/employment

nhs.uk/NHSConstitution

gov.uk/government/publications/supplements-to-the-nhs-constitution-for-england

nice.org.uk/guidance/ng217

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Every effort is made to ensure that all information is correct at the time of printing. Please note that information is intended for a UK audience. This information is not a substitute for advice from your own doctors. Epilepsy Society is not responsible for any actions taken as a result of using this information.

For a printed copy of this information, call our helpline.

Helpline

0300 102 0024

Information and emotional support.

Confidential.

**Visit epilepsysociety.org.uk/helpline
for opening hours.**