

Ms Patel is a 35 year old woman of Pakistani origin. She arrived at the accident and emergency department of the local hospital accompanied by the police. She had sustained minor physical injuries following an attempt to drown herself in a local river. She was rescued by two passers-by, who called the ambulance and the police. A Mental Health Officer has been asked to assess her with a view to consenting to her detention in hospital.

What difference would a Talking Points: Personal Outcomes Approach make at this stage?

Ms Patel has been detained and has now been in hospital for one week. She still presents as tearful and distressed but her sleep patterns have improved since admission and she is more communicative. You now know that she lives with her husband, two children and his parents. Ms Patel states she does not want her husbands parents to anything about her treatment and care in the hospital. Mr Patel is very reluctant to bring the children into hospital and Ms Patel has only seen them once so far.

What difference would a Talking Points: Personal Outcomes Approach make at this stage?

Ms Patel has now been in hospital for one month. She states she understands now why she was detained and that she needed some help, but she wants to be able to return home to live with her children and husband as soon as possible. She has also explained she is not sure about all the medication she is being asked to take, she is concerned it is making her too sleepy and she wants to discuss with the doctor about reducing her medication.

What difference would a Talking Points: Personal Outcomes Approach make at this stage?

