

“Can the Hospital stop me from taking Mum home?”

There are lots of things that go into answering this question, including - Does Mum have capacity to make the decision to go home for herself? If not, are you the appointed decision maker for Mum?

However, the real answer comes from answering the hidden question – “Why would the Hospital not want Mum to go home?”

Everyone working in health care are there to support patients and their families. They would not be resisting the idea of Mum going home just to be difficult or cruel. So there must be other reasons behind why they are not supportive of Mum being discharged to home.

This might be something simple

- Mum has told the health professionals she is not ready to go home, so they are advocating for her wishes
- Mum needs care or equipment in place at home that is not available currently.

The only way to know, is to make a time to either sit down with (or at the moment, have a telephone conversation) with the team looking after Mum in Hospital and get it all out in the open.

The health professionals might not be aware of what resources you have in place already to help support Mum, or that she has an Advance Care Directive about returning to home. They will likely be incredibly grateful to gain more information that helps them to care for your Mother. At the very least you can all share information that promotes Mum’s best interest.

So before anyone gets too emotionally wound up about ‘Mum’s rights’, see if you can take a breath and find out more about the situation. Health services are stretched very thinly and the health professionals who are on the front line do not deserve to be abused.

It can be a very emotional time.

Gather the facts before gathering your anger.

