

Easy read summary

Delayed discharges



What delayed discharge means



Some people are not able to leave hospital even when they are well enough to leave.

This is called **delayed discharge**.

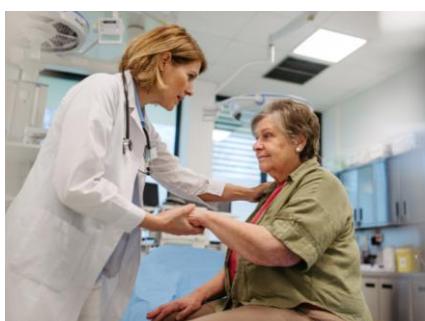


There are many reasons for this like:

- patients not being able to get the help they need to support them in their own home
- some patients not having a **power of attorney**.



A **power of attorney** is when you give someone the legal power to make decisions for you when you cannot make decisions for yourself.



Staying in hospital longer than needed can cause serious harm to people's physical and mental health.



These delays also make it harder to find beds for new patients.



It is one of the many difficult things that health and social care services have to deal with.

For example it is difficult to:

- **recruit** staff – this means when employers advertise jobs and choose people to do them
- keep staff.



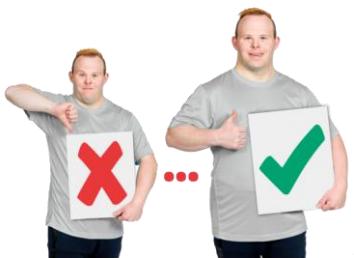
As the population is getting older more people need health and social care services.



And there is not enough money for all our health and social care services.



The Scottish Government and its partners in health and social care need to better understand why people are delayed leaving hospital.



They are trying lots of things to make **improvements** – making things better.



Now they need to understand if these improvements are:

- working well
- making people's lives better.



This problem needs to be sorted to help the whole health and social care system work better.