

# carers and confidentiality facilitator guide

## learning outcome

Your staff will be able to consider and analyse confidentiality issues which arise between professionals and carers.

## learning method

Good practice checklist and questions.

## time required

45 minutes.

## facilitator notes

1. Introduce the session by emphasising how confidentiality issues between the cared for person, the carer and the professional need to be explored and debated. A relationship of trust between cared for, carer and the professional depends on dealing with confidentiality and information sharing in an effective way.
2. Provide each participant with a copy of activity nine handout. Explain how the good practice checklist is based on a leaflet on carers and confidentiality produced as part of the Partners in Care campaign by The Princess Royal Trust for Carers and the Royal College of Psychiatrists (2004). You are advised to familiarise yourself with this leaflet which can be found on the following link: [www.carers.org](http://www.carers.org)

Additional information on confidentiality and carers can also be found at:

[www.rethink.org](http://www.rethink.org)

[www.rcpsych.ac.uk](http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk)

3. Ask participants to reflect on the good practice checklist in small groups and then to address the questions on the handout. Bring groups back together for plenary discussion drawing out key conclusions and putting responses onto flipchart.

### **What other approaches might I consider?**

- Could I draw up a selection of scenarios relevant to my audience based on common areas of concern relating to confidentiality and information sharing e.g. a son not wanting to share information about his drug addiction to his parents, a wife not wanting to share her diagnosis of bi- polar disorder with her husband, a husband not wanting to say to his wife that he can no longer cope with her physical care needs associated with her long term condition. Could these scenarios form the basis for discussion with participants?
- Could I involve both a cared for person and a carer in the facilitation of these discussions to help participants understand the legal and ethical issues of confidentiality from different perspectives?
- Could I develop a role play based on one of those scenarios to help practitioners think about different ways in which to manage difficult and complex confidentiality situations?
- Rather than use the good practice checklist provided could participants draw up their own set of good practice guidelines once they have explored some scenarios?

**Common core principles covered by this activity: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.**