

## **Care and treatment of a patient at South West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen**

The Ombudsman has found that, prior to her death, a patient was given appropriate care and treatment at the South West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen. However, an investigation also concluded that the Trust should have made her family aware of a Do Not Resuscitate order placed on her medical file.

The patient had spent nearly a week in hospital before being discharged back to her residential care home. Within a day of her return she fell ill again and was admitted to hospital in July 2014. She sadly passed away the following day.

Her son complained that she should not have been discharged from hospital, and that she was given an antibiotic by the hospital to which she was allergic.

The Ombudsman found that the patient was rightly prescribed the antibiotic, and that it was reasonable to discharge the patient from hospital as there was evidence of improvement in her medical condition.

The Ombudsman was also satisfied that in the circumstances it was appropriate to put a Do Not Resuscitate order in place for the patient on her readmission to hospital. However, it was found that there was no discussion of the order with her family, which denied them the opportunity to participate in this decision, and impacted on their human rights.