

**Please remember to take your
Health Passport with you every
time you visit hospital,**

and...

**take it home with you after your
visit to hospital!**

For further information, please contact:

Health & Disability Commissioner

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**HEALTH & DISABILITY COMMISSIONER
TE TOIHAU HAUORA, HAUĀTANGA**

**Introduction
to the
Health
Passport**

**Getting a better
health service**

What is a Health Passport?

A Health Passport is a booklet that you can carry with you when attending hospitals or other providers of health and disability services. Your Passport contains information that you want people to know about how to support and communicate with you. It helps health professionals make appropriate and safe decisions about your care.

The Health and Disability Commissioner (HDC) is working with District Health Boards throughout New Zealand to introduce the Health Passport initiative into our hospitals.

Do I need a Health Passport?

A Health Passport is voluntary.

It may be helpful to you if you:

- have an impairment (such as impaired vision, cerebral palsy);
- have a medical condition (such as epilepsy, Alzheimer's Disease);
- have particular communication or support needs;
- visit hospital often.

How can I get a Health Passport?

You can get your Passport:

- By ordering from the HDC website:
**[www.hdc.org.nz/Publications/
Resources-to-order](http://www.hdc.org.nz/Publications/Resources-to-order)**
- By downloading from the HDC website:
**[www.hdc.org.nz/about-us/disability/
health-passport](http://www.hdc.org.nz/about-us/disability/health-passport)**
- From your disability support group
- From your hospital - ask at Reception or the Information Centre.

There is a Guide to help you fill out the information needed in your Passport. You can get a Guide in the same way as you get your Passport.

What about completing my Health Passport?

You can complete your Passport electronically and print a completed copy, or fill in the hard copy. If you require assistance you can get your caregiver or a member of your family to help you.

The Guide provides helpful examples and explanations. You can give as much or as little information as you like — not all the questions may apply to you.