

### Imogen's initial capacity assessment

**Imogen:**

Why am I here? Okay, I just want to go home.

**Doctor:**

Imogen, you're in hospital because you're very unwell.

Yesterday you fainted at school and you were brought in to hospital. And your heart rate is very, very, low. And as you're underweight as well, we need to keep you here and help you get better.

**Imogen:**

I'm fine, okay.

**Doctor:**

Well, I was talking to your mum and her partner, and they're really worried about you. Before we talk about that, let - let me check with you about something. What do you think might be going on? What do you think is making you so sick?

**Imogen:** <sullen silence>

**Doctor:**

Okay. So, um, your mum was telling me she's really concerned because your eating habits have changed a lot over the last six months. You know, you don't eat things like you used to, and you don't like things like you used to and – for example, meat.

**Imogen:**

Meat is disgusting - why would I eat that?

**Doctor:**

Okay. They're also very concerned about your depression...

**Imogen:**

Yeah - honestly, they should just mind their own business. Okay.

**Doctor:**

Okay, I can accept that that's how you think right now, but, they are very concerned about you, as we are. You know, depression, changing your eating patterns, low heart rate, you know that all fits someone struggling with an eating disorder.

**Imogen:**

Well I don't have an eating disorder – okay. I just want to be healthy. I was really fat before – okay - really fat and everybody told me. People actually like me now okay. I'm fine. You all just need to leave me alone.

**Doctor:**

You know it's – it's good to want to be healthy, but right now, your health is really poor, and, if left untreated, you're going to get seriously ill.

**Imogen:**

I'm actually fine okay - I just didn't drink enough water that day or something, like, it's not a big deal - why are we making such a fuss out of it?

**Doctor:**

Well, because we are really concerned about you. And left untreated, these symptoms will lead to much much worse symptoms for you physically and psychologically. You know for example, you know, in the future might not be able to have children.

**Imogen:**

I don't want kids anyway – okay - I'm glad my period stopped. They're just annoying.

**Doctor:**

I understand that, and I accept that, but you know, in the future, you might meet someone you really love and you might decide together to have a baby and you won't be able to. So, we need to keep you here and help you get better.

I feel like I've done a lot of the talking, Imogen. So can I just check in with you about your understanding of why you are here? Why do you think you're in hospital?

**Imogen:** <sullen silence>

**Doctor:**

Can you tell me what might happen if you don't stay in hospital and get treatment?

**Imogen:**

Nothing – 'cause I'm fine.

**Doctor:**

Imogen, anorexia is a very serious...

**Imogen:**

STOP SAYING ANOREXIA – okay - 'cause I don't have anorexia. I told you.

**Doctor:**

Never the less, we are very concerned for you, and for your health - as are your parents. So we need to keep you here in hospital.

**Imogen:**

No - you actually don't, okay. I'm not eating your food, and I'm not staying here, Okay. You can't make me.