



Tel: 01392 829989
Website: www.epicsolutions.org.uk
Email: admin@epicsolutions.org.uk

Consent Policy

This policy is consistent with the guidance from NHSE, GMC and CQC

Introduction

To give consent to assessment/treatment, the client needs to understand:

- Why the assessment/treatment is advised
- Exactly what the assessment/treatment involves
- What the risks/side effects/complications of the assessment/treatment are
- What the alternatives are or the consequences of not having the assessment/treatment

Consent should always be informed i.e. the clinician has given the client appropriate information about the purpose and nature of assessment/treatment, including any risks and any alternatives. This information should be given in an age appropriate way. EPIC Solutions believes in partnership with children, young people and parents/guardians, so information should be given to all wherever possible.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

Confidentiality Policy
Safeguarding Policy

Who can consent?

Competent 'capacitous' clients can give consent. This includes children/young people under 18 who are competent to make decisions. To show competence, generally the client must:

- have an understanding of what decision they need to make and why they need to make it
- have a general understanding of the likely consequences of making or not making the decision
- be able to understand, retain, use and weigh up the information relevant to this decision
- communicate their decision – whether by talking, using sign language or any other means

Clients over 16 must be assumed to have capacity unless assessment of their mental capacity suggests otherwise. Clients under 16 can be judged by a medical professional as having capacity. All who work in association with EPIC Solutions should have a working knowledge of the Mental Capacity Act.

EPIC Solutions believes in seeking the views of children/young people even if they don't have capacity to consent. These views should be taken into consideration wherever possible.

Parents/guardians can consent on behalf of a child/young person if they have parental responsibility. It is good practice to involve all those with parental responsibility if possible/appropriate. The following people automatically have parental responsibility:

- All birth mothers
- Fathers married to the mother at the time the child was born



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- Fathers who are not married to the mother but are registered on the child's birth certificate. The registration or re-registration must have taken place after December 2003
- Civil partners and partners of mothers registered as the child's legal parent on the birth certificate

Others may acquire parental responsibility, for example through a court residency or parental responsibility order. Parental responsibility may be shared with the local authority if the child is the subject of a care order.

Where a responsible parent/guardian is not available, and a child/young person does not have capacity, a medical professional can make a decision based on the child/young person's best interests. This is usually only required in emergency situations.

Consent Forms

EPIC Solutions uses two forms which obtain consent for assessment and information sharing. These are the patient under 18 registration form and patient adult registration form. One of these must be completed before a client can be assessed. These completed consent forms should be uploaded on to Cliniko. Where a client has a complex presentation these consent forms also allow for multidisciplinary discussion to decide on most appropriate assessment and management.

Verbal consent for assessment or therapy in an appointment should be obtained once the process and input has been explained. This should be recorded on the clinical notes system.

Where medication is prescribed there is a separate written consent process see the '**Medicines Management Policy**'.

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