Informed Consent

RWJBH-Rutgers and Epic

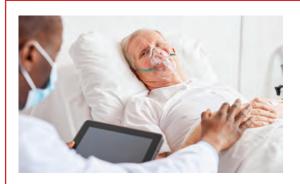


More than just signing a form¹,

the process of informed consent underscores the relationship between the patient and the provider.

A patient or proxy MUST fully understand the nature of the treatment, risks, benefits, and alternatives before they consent.

- Effective patient-provider communication can be associated with better outcomes.²
- Yet, disparities exist. A national Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality review revealed only a fraction of encounters contained all elements of informed decision-making.³



Only a provider deemed competent to perform that operation or procedure independently can deliver and sign informed consent.

This policy benefits patients and providers.

- 1. The Joint Commission, Division of Health Care Improvement. Quick Safety Issue 21: Informed Consents More than Getting a Signature. Accessed at: https://www.jointcommission.org/resources/news-and-multime-dia/newsletters/newsletters/quick-safety/-issue-21-informed-consent-more-than-getting-a-signature/informed-consent-more-than-getting-a-signature/#.Yrr8BHbMKUk. Accessed on June 28, 2022.
- 2. Ha JF, Longnecker N. Doctor-patient communication: A review. Ochsner J. 2010 Spring;10(1):38-43. PMID: 21603354; PMCID: PMC3096184. Accessed at: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3096184/. Accessed on June 28, 2022.
- Cordasco KM. Obtaining Informed Consent From Patients: Brief Update Review. In: Making Health Care Safer II: An Updated Critical Analysis of the Evidence for Patient Safety Practices. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (US); 2013 Mar. (Evidence Reports/Technology Assessments, No. 211.) Chapter 39. Available from: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK133402/

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How can Supporting Providers help with informed consent?

Who are Supporting Providers?

• Supporting Providers can include residents, fellows, APPs, APNs, and PAs.

How can Supporting Providers help Performing Providers with informed consent?

- After the informed consent discussion is completed by the Performing Provider, the patient's signature can be obtained (either before or after the Performing Provider signs).
- The Performing Provider's signed consent can be pushed to the patient's MyChart for the patient or proxy to sign.
- Contribute to the informed consent process under the Performing Provider's direction.
 - Remember: Informed consent at a teaching hospital includes explaining how trainees will be involved in a procedure and educating new physicians on how to properly support the process.



Tips for obtaining Informed Consent with Epic

- Electronic consents (E-Consents) offer the best ability to achieve zero instances of missing/incomplete consents. <u>Click here for the E-Consents tip sheet</u>.
 - Required when the consent is obtained on hospital grounds.
 - Benefits include Electronic Time Out Checklist, Standardization, Decision Support, and Inter-Disciplinary Integration .
- Open a Case Request: E-Consents are immediately available after entering a Case Request order and thus do not need to wait for booking and scheduling.
- For elective procedures, an ideal place to obtain informed consent is a quiet office before hospitalization. In this instance, consent can be on paper and scanned into Epic hyperspace (pending Ambulatory E-Consent workflows).

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