

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-multimedia/newsletters/newsletters/quick-safety/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.
3. 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. [Click here for the E-Consents tip sheet.](#)
 - 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).