

Patient Information

Consent

What is consent?

Consent is the process by which you give permission to a health professional to provide your care and treatment. It may be implied (offering your arm for a blood pressure reading) or formal (signing a formal consent form for an operation).

In either case your consent must be given voluntarily and you must have all the information you need to make a decision. This includes what the treatment involves, the benefits and risks, the details of any alternative treatments and what would happen if the treatment does not go ahead.

How do I give consent?

Consent is a two way process between you and the health professional. It is a chance for you to ask any questions, and for the health professional to explain what your treatment or procedure will involve.

You may give consent to the proposed course of action non-verbally, for example by offering your arm for a blood test. In more complex cases, consent will be recorded on a consent form. The form enables the health professional to record the different aspects involved in consent and allows you to sign to show you agree. The form alone does not prove consent but it does confirm your joint discussion.

Where a child or young person cannot give consent for themselves, someone with parental responsibility must sign the form on their behalf. There is a separate form for an adult patient who lacks capacity to give consent. Please ask your health professional for advice and for further information.

Explaining the consent form

The treatment or procedure: benefits, risks and alternatives

Your health professional will explain the procedure or operation to you, in particular the intended benefits of the operation, the risks involved, any available alternatives and the alternative of not having the treatment or procedure.

You may be offered an information leaflet about your treatment. Most of our leaflets are also available online at www.cuh.org.uk/patientinformation

Where applicable, we will also give you a copy of the consent form to read in advance of your treatment. If you have not had a copy, please ask us.

Important things you need to know

Patient choice is an important part of your care. You have the right to change your mind at any time, even after you have given consent, and even if the procedure has started (as long as it is safe and practical to do so).

If you are having an anaesthetic, you will have the opportunity to discuss this with the anaesthetist, unless the urgency of your treatment prevents this.

We will also only carry out the procedure on your consent form, unless in the opinion of the responsible health professional, a further procedure is needed in order to save your life or prevent serious harm to your health. However, there may be procedures you do not wish us to carry out and these can be recorded on the consent form.

We are unable to guarantee that a particular person will perform the procedure. However, the person undertaking the procedure will have the relevant experience.

All information we hold about you is stored under the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

1 Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease ('CJD')

We must take special measures with hospital instruments if there is a possibility you have been at risk of CJD or variant CJD disease. We therefore ask all patients undergoing any surgical procedure if they have been told that they are at increased risk of either of these forms of CJD. This helps prevent the spread of CJD to the wider public. A positive answer will not stop your procedure taking place, but enables us to plan your operation to minimise any risk of transmission to other patients.

2 Photography, Audio or Visual Recordings

As a leading teaching hospital we take great pride in our research and staff training. We ask for your permission to use images and recordings for your diagnosis and treatment, they will form part of your medical record. We also ask for your permission to use these images for audit and in training medical and other healthcare staff and UK medical students; you do not have to agree and if you prefer not to, this will not affect the care and treatment we provide. We will ask for your separate written permission to use any images or recordings in publications or research.

3 Medical Training

Training doctors and other health professionals is essential to the NHS. Your treatment may provide an important opportunity for such training, where necessary under the careful supervision of a registered professional. You may, however, prefer not to take part in the formal training of medical and other students without this affecting your care and treatment.

4 Use of Tissue

As a leading bio-medical research centre and teaching hospital, we may be able to use tissue not needed for your treatment or diagnosis to carry out research, for quality control or to train medical staff for the future. Any such research, or storage or disposal of tissue, will be carried out in accordance with ethical, legal and professional standards. In order to carry out such research we need your consent. We will only seek your consent if the research has received ethical approval from a Research Ethics Committee. You do not have to agree and if you prefer not to, this will not in any way affect the care and treatment we provide. The leaflet '*Donating tissue or cells for research*' gives more detailed information. Please ask for a copy.

If you wish to withdraw your consent on the use of tissue (including blood) for research, please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS), on **01223 216756**.

The Consent Form

Signed consent forms are kept with your medical records. If you would like a copy, please ask your health professional.

Privacy and Dignity

We are committed to treating all patients with privacy and dignity in a safe, clean and comfortable environment. This means, with a few exceptions, we will care for you in same sex bays in wards with separate sanitary facilities for men and women.

No Smoking Policy

We are currently working towards a smoke free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas. For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on **0800 0224 332**.

Help with this leaflet



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: **01223 216032** or **patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk**

