

Protocol for Medical Student Seeking Informed Consent

1. Medical students learn in an apprenticeship model and how they observe their tutors obtaining a patient's consent will greatly influence their future practice.
2. It is responsibility of VMP to ensure consent is obtained prior to the medical student's involvement.
3. Consent is required for each instance of care.
4. Student must always be introduced as being a Medical Student and the extent of their involvement in patient's management must be explained to the patient.
5. In the clinical environment the student must always wear a badge that clearly identifies them as being a Medical Student.
6. General Verbal Consent is adequate for a student being in the Doctors Rooms, OT, Birth Suite etc. to observe or take a history. This may include assisting at surgery.
7. Specific Verbal Consent should be sought to allow the student to undertake simple procedures under supervision e.g. Giving injections, IV cannulation, suturing. This can be recorded in patient's notes.
8. General written consent is to be recorded in the patient's notes. In the case of an invasive procedure (e.g. surgery) the written record of consent should be signed by the patient.
9. **Prior Specific Written Consent must be obtained** for any examination under anaesthetic which is undertaken primarily for educational purposes e.g. rectal, vaginal or breast examination.
10. In hospital: Students must obtain consent initially from VMP, CNC, or patient's nurse before entering a patient's room. If patient gives consent to have history taken and/ or examination this should be recorded in patient's chart or student's notes.
11. VMP should be directly involved in seeking consent if patient is a minor, has compromised cerebral capacity, difficulties with language comprehension.
12. Patient confidentiality must be respected at all times. Patient details must not be discussed, even in a de-identified manner in the Hospital e.g. Lifts, dining areas.
13. The *Acknowledgement and Disclaimer Form* that a patient completes on admission and can be viewed in the patient chart, must be checked prior to any interactions. This form indicates the patient's authority to be involved in student teaching.

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