

Consent Policy

We promise to treat you with respect, politeness and recognise your needs and wishes at all times. We will give you sufficient information to allow you to make an informed decision on your treatment.

Before we can examine or treat you, we require your consent. For consent to be valid it must be informed. Informed consent is based on a clear understanding of the associated:

- Facts
- Implications
- Consequences

Consent must be given voluntarily and not under any form of duress or undue influence.

It is the fundamental right of every patient to refuse consent or withdraw consent at any time (even during the middle of a treatment course). We will respect this, follow your wishes and make you aware of the implications this decision may have.

Consent can be given:

- **Explicitly** – specific consent is given to carry out a specific action.
- **Implicitly** – not expressly given but inferred from your actions, the facts and circumstances of a particular situation. E.g. attending for a pre-arranged examination appointment would give consent for this to be carried out.

Helping You Give Informed Consent

We promise that we will:

- Discuss your treatment needs and provide you with the different options available, even if we cannot offer them in the practice.
- Make sure you understand the risks, benefits and implications of all treatment options.
- Tell you the consequences of choosing not to have the treatment.
- Tell you what treatment we feel is appropriate for you.
- Record, contemporaneously, all discussions.
- Provide you with a written estimate of costs before any treatment is commenced.
- Explain your estimate honestly and answer any queries you may have.
- Provide a further estimate if the treatment needs to be changed once started.
- Give you time to reflect on the information, ask questions and consider your options before making a decision.
- Be happy for you to seek a second opinion.

Ability to give consent.Adults

Every adult has a right to make his or her own decisions and we will assume you have capacity to give consent unless proved otherwise. We follow closely the five statutory principals of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and will make every effort to enable you to make your own decision.

In cases where we are concerned you do not fully understand the information provided; we will make an assessment of your capacity. In order to have the capacity to give informed consent you should be able to :

- Understand information relevant to the decision.
- Express the possible consequences of making or not making the decision to go ahead with treatment.
- Retain relevant information.
- Explain how information provided was used to make your decision.
- Express the rationale for your decision.

Any decisions made on behalf of patients deemed “without capacity” will always be made in their best interests and in consultation with others who have an interest in their welfare.

Children

We respect that the age of consent for children is 16. We understand that although at 16 and 17 they may consent to their own treatment, they do not have an absolute right to refuse treatment. This is in accordance with the Family Law Reform Act 1969. We appreciate however that this can only be overridden by the court and always act with the patient’s best interests.

We understand that children under 16 must either be competent as defined by Gillick Competence* or that whoever has parental responsibility, gives permission for treatment as defined by the Children Act 1989.

(*Gillick competence is a UK legal principle used to determine whether a child under 16 has the maturity and intelligence to consent to their own medical treatment without parental knowledge or permission).

