Patient Consent

“Consent” is a patient’s agreement for a health professional to provide care.

Patients may indicate consent non-verbally (for example by presenting their arm for their pulse to be recorded), verbally or written. For consent to be valid the patient must:

• be competent to make the particular decision
• have received sufficient information to make it
• not act under duress.

The Department of Health has issued guidance documents on consent, which should be consulted for advice on current law and good practice. Health professionals must be aware of guidance on consent issued by their own regulatory bodies.

Completed copies of consent forms must be filed within the patients notes and the following information recorded on the form:

• Evidence that patients have received information leaflets relating to their planned procedure and anaesthetic.
• Relevant contact details to allow patients to discuss procedures with clinicians prior to attending the hospital.
• Evidence that a copy of the consent form has been offered to the patient.

Consent forms should be re-signed by a health professional to confirm the patient’s consent, where this has been signed prior to their planned procedure date.

Only Trust approved consent forms and Patient Information Leaflets on the Trust’s current published list should be used by clinicians.

For further information please contact Helen Noble, Head of Patient Safety ext 771 2341