

CONSENT TO TREATMENT

gives the dentist the authority to proceed with treatment and the confidence to know that the patient is making an informed, voluntary decision that they have the capacity to make

WHY DO YOU NEED CONSENT FOR TREATMENT¹?



LEGAL

Treatment (other than in an emergency) may only happen when there is consent. In the absence of consent, there may be legal consequences (e.g., battery, negligence)



ETHICAL

Consent embodies the principle of autonomy and lets the patient decide what treatment or care they receive.



PROFESSIONAL

Misconduct occurs when there is treatment without consent.

¹Treatment is defined as anything done for a therapeutic, preventive, palliative, diagnostic, cosmetic or other health-related purpose

WHAT ACTIONS MUST YOU TAKE AS A DENTIST?

CARE Have you described the:

- ✓ Nature of the treatment? ✓ Alternative courses of action?
- ✓ Expected benefits? ✓ Relevant fees?
- ✓ Risks and side effects? ✓ Consequences of NOT having treatment?

CAPACITY Does the patient:

- ✓ Understand the information relevant to the treatment and the decision they must make?
- ✓ Appreciate the consequences of the decision or lack of decision?
- ✓ If not, have you contacted the patient's substitute decision maker using the following hierarchy?
 1. Guardian of the person
 2. Power of attorney
 3. Personal representative
 4. Spouse/partner
 5. Child, custodial parent, or CAS
 6. Access parent
 7. Brother/sister
 8. Any other relative

COMMUNICATION Have you asked yourself:

- ✓ What would a reasonable person want to know in these same circumstances?
- ✓ What are the specific circumstances or concerns that are uniquely important to this patient?
- ✓ Have you documented the consent discussion.

WHERE CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION?²

RCDSO Standard of Practice on Consent to Treatment



²This infographic is intended to be a convenient reference. Please refer to the Standard for complete information.