Consent

What is Consent?
Consent is the process by which you give permission to a health professional to provide your care, treatment or therapy. It may be implied (offering your arm for a blood pressure reading) or formal (signing a formal consent form for a particular intervention to be carried out).

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 procedure, treatment or therapy 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 other cases, consent will be recorded on a consent form. The form enables the health professional to record the different aspects involved in the consent discussion and allows you to sign to show that you agree.

The form alone does not prove consent has been obtained, but it does confirm and will reflect your 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 or user of services 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, treatment or therapy to you, in particular the intended benefits of the procedure, treatment or therapy, the risks involved, any available alternatives and the alternative of not having the procedure, treatment or therapy

You may also be offered an information leaflet about your procedure, treatment or therapy

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

Patient/Service user 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, treatment or therapy has started (as long as it is safe and practical to do so).

We will only carry out the procedure, treatment or therapy that has been discussed and agreed with you. If during the course of your procedure, treatment or therapy (in the opinion of the responsible health professional) that a change in procedure, treatment or therapy is required, then they will discuss this with you at the time. 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, treatment or therapy. However, the person undertaking the procedure will have the relevant experience and will be competent to carry out the intervention.

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

**The consent form**

Signed consent forms are kept with your records. If you would like a copy, please ask your health professional, they will be happy to make a copy for you.

**Health Professionals in Training**

Training student nurses, therapists and other health professionals is essential to the NHS. Your procedure, treatment or therapy may provide an important opportunity for such training (where necessary under the careful supervision of a registered professional or a competently skilled worker). You may however, prefer not to take part in the formal training of the student professional. Please be assured that if you choose not take part in this, then this will not affect the care and treatment you will receive from us.

**Photography, audio or visual recordings**

As a community healthcare organisation, we continually endeavour to deliver high quality, person centred care and treatment. As a learning organisation, we may ask (on occasions) for your permission to use images and recordings for your diagnosis and treatment (they will form part of your records or if they are not held with your records will be destroyed).

We may also ask for your permission to use these image or recordings for audit, peer review or for training student health professionals. You do not have to agree to this, and if you prefer not to, this will not affect the care and treatment we will provide. We will ask for your separate written permission to use any images or recordings in publications or research.