CONSENT POLICY

Govt. of Meghalaya

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CONSENT POLICY
A. Purpose: To ensure that patient and her family members participate in her healthcare decisions

B. Scope: Hospital wide

C. Policy:
- Voluntary, Informed, written Consent is taken by the Doctor/Nurse on duty - A patient's consent is informed:
  The patient is given sufficient information so that she understands her condition, and purpose and nature of the proposed treatment, the risks and consequences of the procedure/treatment, and the prognosis.
- General Consent:
  When the nature and probable risks of the procedure or treatment is of ordinary in nature
  - Implied Consent in a Medical Emergency:
    Consent in emergencies may be implied if the condition of the patient precludes his/her ability to make a decision regarding treatment or procedures. A medical emergency is a situation where delay for the purposes of obtaining consent may reasonably be anticipated as endangering the life of the patient or significantly increasing the harm to the patient's health.
  - Consent from patient attendant
    The priority order of is as follows: spouse, adult children, parents, adult brothers or sisters, adult grand children, significant other (close friend). A close friend may sign the consent form only in an emergency.

D. Policy Guidelines:
- General Guidelines:
  Written "informed consent" using the relevant Consent Form shall be obtained in the following instances:
  i. All procedures performed in the Delivery Rooms.
  ii. Non-routine diagnostic or therapeutic procedures performed in the hospital, and not having a specific consent form. Example:
     - Any procedure under any form of anesthesia
     - Normal Delivery with episiotomy
     - Forceps/Ventouse application
     - MTP/D&C/Evacuation
     - No-Scalpel Vasectomy

- Specific Guidelines:
  i. The treating Doctor shall discuss in lay terms the procedure, its risks, benefits, costs (if applicable) and alternatives with the patient or the patient's surrogate decision maker. The Doctor shall document the discussion by obtaining the patient's or her attendant’s written informed consent on the appropriate form.
  The patient shall sign the consent form. An attendant may sign the consent on behalf of the patient if:
   - The patient is a minor (less than 18
   - The patient is a minor. (less than 18 yrs of age)
   - The patient is mentally incapable of making an informed consent.
   - The patient is unconscious
   - The patient has received sedation within 3 hours
   - The patient is physically incapable of signing the form
v. It is the responsibility of the person obtaining the consent to ensure that the consent form shall be properly filled prior to signing.
vi. All entries shall be in ink.
vii. Attendant’s relationship to the patient shall be recorded.
viii. The date and time of signing shall be clearly indicated.
ix. The consent form must be signed by the doctor, patient or his decision maker and the witness prior to entry into the labor room
x. If the doctor signature is not there on the consent form, the procedure shall be postponed or cancelled.
xii. A patient or her attendant may revoke the consent for the procedure at any time before it is carried out. In such an event, the doctor shall discuss the procedure again and if refused, the procedure shall not be carried out and a note to this effect should be added which should be signed by the patient/attendant.

c. Consent Forms:

- General informed consent on admission
- Informed consent for Delivery
- Informed consent for HIV testing
- High risk consent form
- Consent for IUCD
- Consent for MVA
- Consent for No-Scalpel Vasectomy
- Consent for Medico-Legal examination