

Student - Policy on Informed Consent

Policy Number: 305.1001.100

Policy Revision Date: 2022-3-22

Policy Category: Academic

Policy Owner: Vice Dean for Medical Education

Policy Audience: Students, Faculty

1. Definitions:

Informed consent

Informed consent: the process in which a health care provider educates a patient about the risks, benefits, and alternatives of a given procedure or intervention. The following are the elements required by the Joint Commission for documentation of the informed consent discussion: (1) the nature of the procedure, (2) the risks and benefits and the procedure, (3) reasonable alternatives, (4) risks and benefits of alternatives, and (5) assessment of the patient's understanding of elements 1 through 4. ([Leading the Way to Zero | The Joint Commission](#))

2. Medical Curriculum Committee Review:

Approved at the Medical Curriculum Committee Meeting: March 22 2022

3. Introduction / Purpose:

This Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine policy has several functions:

1. Protect the rights of patients, students and preceptors.
2. Provide our students the ability to voluntarily remove themselves without consequence from questionable or uncomfortable clinical encounters related to consent for sensitive exams.
3. Monitor the frequency of breaches of this policy in order to remediate responsible individuals accordingly.

4. Governance and Enforcement:

Vice Dean for Medical Education, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Regional Education Team (Regional Education Specialist, Associate Dean, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs)

5. Policy:

Informed Consent Policy:

True informed consent must be obtained for any Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine student to be involved in a patient's medical care. The informed consent should be based on approved medical ethics guidelines which require a patient to have a clear understanding of all

relevant facts. Consent must be obtained when the patient is in a coherent state and has the ability to engage in proper reasoning and judgment.

The general consent for student involvement in care does not cover sensitive procedures such as breast, pelvic and prostate exams, including those that occur under anesthesia; these procedures require explicit, expressed consent by the patient prior to anesthesia and/or sedation. If consent cannot be obtained (e.g. cognitive impairment, emergency procedures) or is not obtained according to these guidelines, then the student shall not perform the procedure and has the right to voluntarily remove themselves from that clinical setting.

Any breach of this policy should be reported to a member of the regional team (e.g. Education Specialist, Associate or Assistant Dean for Student Affairs) for review in a timely manner, in addition to submitting a Learning Environment Report.

6. Key Stakeholders:

Students, Faculty