

# Consent Policy

## Version Control Sheet

VERSION	DATE OF REVIEW	IMPLEMENTED AND AUDITED BY	STATUS	COMMENTS
4	01/04/2024	Ann Kelly (Registered Manager)	Active	To be reviewed 01/04/2025

## Purpose

Clinical24 Staffing Limited recognises the importance of obtaining informed consent from patients or service users before providing any treatment or care. This policy outlines the purpose, statement, and procedures for obtaining consent, ensuring that the rights and autonomy of patients or service users are respected.

## Statement

Clinical24 Staffing Limited is committed to promoting patient autonomy and ensuring that all healthcare professionals employed or contracted by the organization obtain valid and informed consent from patients or service users before providing any treatment or care. This policy establishes the guidelines and procedures for obtaining consent and ensuring compliance with legal and ethical requirements.

## Procedure and Guidance

All Nurses and healthcare workers must ensure:

- ***Consent is obtained before giving any treatment or care to a patient or service user.***

To ensure informed consent and patient autonomy, all patients or service users are entitled to receive and understand information about their condition and treatment and therefore have a right to refuse healthcare intervention. All decisions must be respected by the worker.

## Consent Process

- Prior to providing any treatment or care, healthcare professionals employed or contracted by Clinical24 Staffing Limited must ensure that consent has been obtained from the patient or service user, or their authorized representative, as applicable.

- The consent process should be fully explained to the patient or service user, including the purpose, risks, benefits, and alternatives of the treatment or care being proposed.
- Healthcare professionals should use clear and understandable language, taking into consideration the patient's or service user's capacity to give consent.
- If the patient or service user has any questions or concerns, healthcare professionals should address them to ensure a clear understanding before proceeding.

### Types of Consent

- **Informed Consent:** Informed consent requires that the patient or service user is provided with all relevant information to make an educated decision. They must fully understand the procedure, its purpose, potential risks, benefits, alternatives, and any potential consequences of refusal.
- **Implied Consent:** Implied consent may be used in emergency situations when immediate treatment or care is necessary to protect the patient or service user's health and consent cannot be obtained immediately.

### Documentation

- All consent obtained from patients or service users must be appropriately documented in their medical or service records.
- The documentation should include the date, time, name(s) of the healthcare professional(s) involved, the explanation provided, and confirmation that the patient or service user agreed to the treatment or care.
- In cases where the patient or service user refuses treatment or care, the details of the discussion and the patient's or service user's decision should be documented as well.

### Legislation

In Northern Ireland the legal age of capacity is 18 years old. However, under section 4 of the Age of Majority Act (Northern Ireland 1969) young people aged 16 -17 are entitled to provide consent for their own medical treatment.

Before any treatment or care is given to a patient or service user who is not legally competent, valid consent must be sought from the legal guardian or next of kin who is legally competent on behalf of the patient resident or service user.

If an adult has been assessed as lacking the capacity to make a specific decision, then there are formal legislative processes that allows for a decision about care, treatment or support to be made on their behalf. Current mental health legislation and capacity legislation includes The Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 and the Mental Capacity Act Northern Ireland (2016), and they make provision for the possibility of deprivation of liberty and/or treatment without consent.

### Review and Compliance

All workers must ensure they are familiar with the policies related to consent in the organisation they are being placed to work by Clinical 24 Staffing Limited.

All workers must document their actions in relation to obtaining consent. Any deviations, for instance in an emergency situation, should be recorded in the patient's, resident's or service user's care plan and include any involvement of the patient/resident/service user in the decision-making process.


Information given must be accurate and truthful and presented in such a way that the information will be understood.

If, in doubt, Clinical24 Staffing Limited require their nurses to seek clarification from a substantive member of staff in the placement location or from the Registered Manager.

This Consent Policy will be reviewed annually to ensure compliance with internal policies, legal requirements, and ethical standards. Non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment or contract, for healthcare professionals who fail to obtain appropriate consent.

By implementing this Consent Policy, Clinical24 Staffing Limited ensures the respect and protection of patients' or service users' rights, promoting their autonomy and ensuring the delivery of safe and ethical healthcare services.

### Next Review

Reviewed by:	Ann Kelly
Title:	Registered Manager
Signed:	
Last Review Date:	01/04/2024
Actions:	Address Updated

Next Review Date: April 2025