

# Alpha Clin<sup>+</sup> CLINICS Inc.

## Guideline

### Signing Consent for Clinic Procedures

#### 1. Introduction

With HIV/AIDS the focus on disease management has become more focused. This resulted in a greater regard for the rights of patients in all areas of healthcare. No longer can a healthcare professional carry out any investigation, perform procedures or prescribe and administer any medication without the informed consent of the patient.

#### 2. Patient Right Charter

According to the Patients Right Charter patients' needs to supply informed consent for procedures. Patients are also allowed to refuse treatment and this can be done verbal or in writing as long as it does not endanger the health of others.

#### 3. The Role of the Healthcare Professional

- Legally responsible in ensuring that the rights of the patient are fully explained.
- Ensure that the rights of the patient are maintained and are not abused, even by fellow members in the healthcare profession
- All medical and scientific options that are available to the patient should be clearly and fully explained. Information should not be withheld because the professional believes that the patient can't afford it.
- Pharmacists and nurses rendering clinic services in a pharmacy are obliged to get informed consent according to the Good Pharmacy Manual point 2.13.1.2
- Except in an emergency or if the patient is unable to give consent, consent should be obtained preferably in writing, for:
  - Testing and any other diagnostic procedure:
  - Counselling where it pertains directly to the diagnosis, management or treatment of a disease or issues directly related to the disease:

- Consent to counsel on treatment. Treatment includes many elements of counselling, including treatment advice and advice regarding nutrition, supplements, vitamins and adherence:
- Consent to undergo testing

#### **4. Obtaining Informed Consent**

Informed consent is consent that is given by a person that meets certain minimum requirements.

The patient can only give informed consent if he/she clearly understands the facts, implications and future consequences of the procedure.

This implies that the healthcare professional needs to explain all procedures before the procedure is done and answer all questions satisfactory.

The healthcare professional would need to guide the patient through the consent form and explain as needed.

The healthcare professional needs to be familiar with the consent forms.

Signed consent is only valid for the day it is signed and for the specific procedure.

#### **5. Legal consent forms are designed to:**

Inform patients of his or her rights and to give a basic outline of what is going to happen to the patient (i.e. what is he/she consenting to?);

To protect the Healthcare Professional from possible legal action and complaints of unfair treatment;

To protect the patient to the extent that the patient is aware of any risks or adverse outcomes;

#### **6. Consent forms for procedures in the clinic**

- Consent and indemnity form for Medical procedures;
- To be signed by all patients requesting an invasive procedure i.e. finger prick tests, wound care procedures, ear syringing, pap smears, phlebotomy, family planning injections, adult injections and vaccinations and flu vaccines.
- Consent and Indemnity for baby and child vaccinations:
- To be signed by the parent, guardian or caregiver of the baby or child needing the vaccine.

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- Voluntary counselling and Testing
- To be signed by all patients, visiting the clinic to have an HIV screening test and pre- and post- test counselling.
- Consent to release patient identity and screening test results to the patients' Medical Aid Scheme.
- To be signed by all patients visiting the clinic for a Health Risk Assessment paid for by their Medical Aid Scheme.
- By signing this form, patients consent that Alpha Clinic may share the identity and screening results of the specific consultation with the Medical Aid Scheme.

**NOTE: NO HIV RESULTS WILL BE SHARED**

**IMPORTANT:** (if a patient don't want to share his/her screening test results with the Medical Aid Scheme, the test will be for his/her own cost and it would not be paid by the medical aid scheme.)

### **7. Safekeeping of signed informed consents**

Consents should be filed and locked away when not in use and kept for a period of 5 years.

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