

Patient Consent

Patient consent is required to ensure that a patient has been consulted about and understands the intentions, consequences and any risks of a proposed investigation or treatment and has actively consented to that procedure or treatment and any connected administrative matters which also require active consent on the part of the patient.

Within InHealth there are two types of consent relevant to the investigations we provide:

- Consent for carrying out a procedure
- Consent for data sharing

Within InHealth there is a Consent Policy which aims to ensure that the rights of all InHealth patients are to be fully involved in decisions about their care, are protected and that no treatment or procedure will be carried out on a patient without valid consent. For consent to be valid, it must be given voluntarily by an appropriately informed person who has the capacity to consent to the procedure in question.

It is likely that you will be requested for both types of consent in relation to the investigation you are to undergo.

Consent to Investigation/Procedure/Treatment

The patient information leaflet provided supports this consent process and provides information specific to the procedure to be undertaken to enable you to be in a position to give valid consent for the procedure. The leaflet contains information about the nature of the test or procedure and any options that are available along with the purpose of these options. You are asked to read the patient information leaflet as a means of informing you about the procedure in order to obtain proper consent but you are also able to discuss any questions or concerns at your appointment and before your investigation with a qualified member of staff.

Consent for a procedure to be undertaken, depending on the circumstances can be either verbal or written. This is different from consent for data sharing, which must be given in writing (see below).

Valid consent in writing must be sought for the following:

- Injection of contrast agents – dyes used to enhance the images of your body acquired during your investigation and administered by an intravenous injection before or during your investigation.
- Injection of radioactive substances – these are tracer agents which react in a particular way depending upon your condition and enhance the images acquired for the purpose of diagnosis.
- When a patient is pregnant and has been referred for an examination involving the use of MRI or ionising radiation eg plain film X-Rays or CT.
- Intimate examinations or procedures.

Written consent will be recorded on the relevant InHealth consent form and you will be asked to sign this form to indicate your consent.

You will also be asked to sign to confirm that information that you have given to InHealth is true and accurate. This is not the same as consent for the procedure but acts as evidence that the radiographer and the patient have agreed that the information has been obtained and reported accurately. All of this information is recorded on your consent form.

Data Sharing

For all patients undergoing clinical procedures consent to data sharing is also required. The law requires that where any organisation shares data with any other organisation in relation to health matters, it is necessary to seek the consent of that individual for data to be shared. InHealth only shares data for the purpose of obtaining a clinical diagnosis of a patient's investigation, for audit of its services (which is a contractual requirement imposed by the Department of Health and other customers to ensure that the services are safe and of a high quality) and to permit InHealth to provide the diagnosis back to the NHS for NHS patients or to any person responsible for meeting the costs of your treatment. InHealth will also seek consent to use data (images from the investigation) from which all identifying information has been removed (anonymised data) for research, training and teaching purposes.

The law imposes strict obligations on InHealth regarding the manner in which data is stored and the limits imposed on those who can access data, including very limited purposes for which that data can be accessed. In addition InHealth carries an Information Security Quality Accreditation known as ISO27001. This standard subjects InHealth to regular audit regarding the quality and security of its information storage and security arrangements.

InHealth and the Law impose similar duties and responsibilities on any other organisation involved in reviewing your data for the purpose of diagnosis or audit.

InHealth does not share data with any other provider of healthcare services or other interested parties for marketing or any other purpose. InHealth never shares any information about patients with commercial companies nor gives personal details to anyone who works outside our company, its clinical providers and the local NHS.

If you are not willing to consent to the limited sharing of data required to support diagnosis of your investigation, it will not be possible for InHealth to carry out the investigation.

Data Sharing consent covers both:

- Data Sharing between organisations
- Use of anonymised images or results for research, training and teaching

If you do not consent to data sharing by signing the Data Protection Act declaration contained in your Consent Form, your investigation cannot proceed as InHealth would be prevented from sending your diagnostic images or test results to Doctors for the purpose of obtaining diagnosis and also from advising your GP or referring consultant of the results of your investigation.

As with consent for the procedure, you are able to ask any questions regarding data sharing at your appointment in order to ensure that you are properly informed in providing your consent.

For all enquiries please contact our patient info line on



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