



Heathgate Medical Practice Patient Information Consent

We all have the right to determine what happens to us and therefore patients should give consent to treatment and care including the sharing of information with other healthcare providers where care is offered outside of the Practice.

Giving consent – what does that mean?

Giving consent means giving permission or an agreement for something to happen. In the surgery, we use two types of consent.

1. Expressed consent – this is where consent has specifically been given for something to happen, either verbally or in writing and is clearly unmistakably stated that someone has agreed that something should, may or can happen.
2. Implied consent is where consent is inferred from a person's actions and not necessarily given verbally or in writing.

Examples of consent

A patient discusses the need for a GP to refer them to the hospital, which will involve sharing clinical information with the hospital clinicians. The GP asks the patient direct if they are happy with this, and they confirm they are. **This is expressed consent.**

A patient attends the surgery for a minor surgical procedure, such as the removal of an ingrowing toenail. After explaining the procedure, the treatment, side effects and the risks, the GP asks the patient to sign a consent form to proceed with the surgery. The patient understands what they have been told and they sign a consent form. **This is expressed consent.**

A patient books an appointment for a blood test. The nurse calls the patient, and they walk into the consultation room. The nurse confirms the patient is here for a blood test, and they offer their arm, and the sample is taken. **This is implied consent.**

Withdrawal

There may be occasions where consent has been obtained but during a procedure or treatment, a patient changes their mind. If so, the treatment will be stopped for further discussion.

If the patient decides to go ahead, a new consent will be obtained.

Our policy

Our clinicians will discuss with patients the reasons, process and associated risks of any proposed treatment or care and in all cases prior consent will be obtained.

Any questions raised by patients will be answered honestly and information provided (written if necessary) to enable patients to reach an informed decision on the treatment or care being offered.

The clinician obtaining consent will be fully qualified and have the recognised competencies to undertake the proposed treatment or care.

Our clinicians will use their professional judgement as to whether implied or expressed consent is required.

Clinicians will obtain written consent where procedures carry a degree of risk or where they consider it appropriate to do so. No alterations will be made to the written consent after it has been signed.

A record of the consent given will be made in patients' medical record.

Clinicians will ensure that consent is given freely and not under duress. The scope of the consent provided will not be exceeded unless in an emergency.