

5. Consent Procedure

Consent is the process by which you give your permission to a doctor or nurse to provide your care or treatment. It can be implied (offering out your arm for a blood pressure reading) or formal (signing a formal consent form for an operation).

In either case it must be voluntary and you must have all the information you need to make a decision. This includes what the treatment involves and what would happen if it does not go ahead, the benefits of it, any potential risks, side-effects or complications, and also any relevant management required after the procedure. You must remember you can always request a second opinion if you want also.

When you attend your appointment at St Andrews Medical Centre your consent will be discussed with you prior to your procedure.

The consent procedure is a two way process between you and your doctor. It will involve an explanation of the procedure, and be an opportunity for you to ask any questions you have also. You will be asked to sign a consent form only after this has taken place. This form will allow your doctor/nurse to record the specific aspects discussed within the consent procedure and allows you to sign to say you agree. The form alone does not prove consent but it does confirm your joint discussion. When a child or young person who cannot give consent for themselves are involved, some with parental responsibility must sign on their behalf.

It is extremely important that you should ask at any point in the procedure if you have any questions or queries at all.

The consent form will include the name of the procedure, as well as the benefits, risks and alternatives. You may also be offered (or already have been offered) a patient information leaflet with more details. If you would like a copy of your consent form, please do ask. The use of local anaesthetic will be discussed if necessary also.

We will only carry out the procedure documented on the form and that discussed – unless in the opinion of the doctor (or nurse) that a further procedure is needed in order to prevent serious harm to your health/save your life.

We are unable to guarantee that a particular person will perform the procedure; unless you have specifically requested this then we will try to accommodate this if at all possible.

It is important that you remember that you have the right to change your mind at any time, even if you have already given your consent (including having signed the consent form), or if the procedure has started.