



Policy relating to Informed Consent for Pre-Registration Healthcare Learners Involvement in Care Applicable to all PSRB/NMAHP Approved Programmes

NB: this document is to be read in relation to relevant HEI and Organisation policies.

GM Practice Education Centre of Excellence
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Consent is an important aspect of providing care and treatment. To safeguard service users' valid consent must be obtained before commencing an examination, starting treatment or physical investigation, or providing care. It is a legal requirement. This principle reflects the rights of a person to determine what happens to the care they receive.

Both the Health Care Professional Council (HCPC) standards of conduct, performance and ethics and The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Standards for professional behaviour professional practice for nurses, midwives and nursing associates (2018), state you should have the consent of their service users (or other appropriate authority) before you carry out any care, treatment or other services.

NMC Public safety includes making sure that people are informed and empowered to be a partner in their care. They should be given the opportunity to give and if required, withdraw, their informed consent to students being involved in their care. Open communication is essential to ensure that people feel they have adequate choice around consent on both general and specific aspects of their care by students.

HCPC Define consent as when someone has all the information, they need to make a decision about receiving care or services. The HCPC recognise that some students do not have direct interaction with service users; and would instead rely on another professional connected with the service user's care to receive appropriate consent.

The Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and partnership organisations recognise their responsibility to ensure learners have a good knowledge of guidance, protocols related to issues of consent to safeguard service users.

Provider organisations will ensure service users are informed through verbal and or written formats that learners are present for the purposes of learning. This will also include information about the patient's right to withdraw their consent to learner being involved.

It is the responsibility of each learner to ensure they understand their role when gaining informed consent and the delivery of patient care within the practice setting.

As a learner you are required to:

- Locate and familiarise yourself with the Organisation specific consent management policy documents for each placement in accordance with your Practice Assessment Document. This can be done through discussion of local policies at the placement initial interview.
- Report any breaches of consent which may affect yourself or others in the practice setting, within the relevant partnership organisation and HEI policies and procedures.
- Ensure you are aware of the process for informed consent when you are delivering patient care.
- To gain valid consent before you deliver care.
- If another health or social care professional has sought and received consent on your behalf, you must be assured that valid consent has been provided and documented.
- Respect the service user's choice if they do not want a learner to be involved in their care.

Resources

[Safe learning experiences - The Nursing and Midwifery Council \(nmc.org.uk\)](https://www.nmc.org.uk/safe-learning-experiences/) [Consent and confidentiality | \(hcpc-uk.org\)](https://www.hcpc-uk.org/consent-and-confidentiality/)
[The Code \(nmc.org.uk\)](https://www.nmc.org.uk/the-code/)

