

Informed Consent

Nursing

The three elements consent needs, and what a signed form does and does not prove.

Consent is a process. It can be withdrawn at any point, including mid-procedure.

Valid consent needs

Capacity for this decision, at this time

Sufficient information, including alternatives

Material risks discussed, in the person's terms

The option of doing nothing explained

Voluntariness — free from pressure

Given by the person, not by a relative

The nurse's part

Check understanding before the procedure

Stop if the person withdraws consent

Arrange an interpreter where needed

Escalate doubt about capacity or understanding

Record what was discussed and by whom

Never take consent for what you cannot explain

Educational reference. Consent law and who may take consent differ by country and setting. Follow local policy and registration standards.