



Involvement of Patients in Clinical Teaching Procedure

Procedure Number

CHC-PG-0029

Version Nos:

4

1. Purpose

This Procedure outlines the process for the involvement of West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB) patients in clinical teaching activities.

2. Application

This Procedure is to be followed by all WCDHB staff members including Honorary Staff Members (these are individuals who are not formally employed by the WCDHB but who have been granted the same rights as employees with regard to having access to patients.)

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this Procedure:

Clinical Teaching is taken to mean education activities involving student health professionals that occur within a WCDHB facility or in a community setting where WCDHB staff members are providing services.

Student Health Professionals is taken to mean individuals who are participating in a course of study that has as its outcome a recognised health professional qualification.

4. Responsibilities

For the purposes of this Procedure:

all **Clinical Staff Members** are required to abide by the requirements of this Procedure

all **Honorary Staff Members** are required to abide by the requirements of this Procedure.

5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires no specific resources.

6. Process

- 1.00 In the partnership between patient, WCDHB staff members and student, the paramount consideration must always be the welfare and interests of the patient.
- 1.01 An effective health care setting needs a continuing supply of qualified staff. An essential requirement for training health professionals is access to practical experience that is well planned and properly supervised.
- 1.02 Good quality experience for students is based on a three-way partnership between the patient who agrees to be part of the teaching/learning process; teaching staff; and the student. This process involves cooperation between the teacher and other qualified staff.
- 1.03 The quality of patient care is the responsibility of the entire clinical team. Students providing aspects of the clinical treatment are to be supervised by the relevant clinical team and supported by the teaching staff.



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- 1.04 Physical examination or specific procedures undertaken by students must not be repeated unreasonably on any one patient and must not produce or prolong significantly any distress, embarrassment or pain.
- 1.05 Students involved in research activities must have received authorization to proceed and do so under supervision of the teaching staff. (As per the requirements of the *WCDHB Research Procedure*).
- 1.06 Consent must be sought by an appropriate means from a parent or guardian for children under 16. Children who can understand what is involved are to participate in the decision. Verbal discussion about involvement in teaching must be recorded in the patient's clinical record (as per the requirements of the *WCDHB Informed Consent Procedure*).
- 1.07 Cultural differences in decision-making are to be respected. This process may include involvement of family/whanau members (where appropriate).
- 1.08 Patients must have an adequate prior understanding of what is proposed; the involvement of family/whanau members or a recognised interpreter may be necessary, before, during or after teaching.
- 1.09 With patients who are disabled by confusion, an altered state of consciousness, mental incompetence, speech understanding difficulties or hearing problems, agreement should be sought from another person who can speak for the patient.
- 1.10 Every patient has the right to decide whether he or she wishes to agree to an interview, examination or other specific procedure carried out by a student.
- 1.11 Every patient has the right to withdraw from the teaching session or research project at any stage and must receive a clear prior assurance that refusal to participate in teaching and research or withdrawing from teaching and research will not jeopardise his or her care in any way.
- 1.12 Students must seek the agreement of patients allocated to them to be interviewed and examined, or to be the subject of specific learning procedures, and must explain clearly what is involved.
- 1.13 Students must obtain written consent for any procedure or examination to be performed by them while the patient is under general anaesthesia or sedation.
- 1.14 Students must obtain the patient's verbal consent to observe procedures in theatre if they are part of the care giving team. The consent should be obtained before pre-medication is given.
- 1.15 Patients have the right to know the name and professional status of any person who wishes to interview them for teaching or research purposes and /or examine them, or to carry out specific treatment or investigation procedures.
- 1.16 Teachers must ask a patient's permission to involve him or her in group teaching or clinical demonstration sessions and explain precisely what will be involved and how many students will be present.



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7. Precautions And Considerations

- ➔ The paramount consideration must always be the welfare and interests of the patient.
- ➔ Physical examination or specific procedures undertaken by students must not be repeated unreasonably on any one patient
- ➔ Every patient has the right to decide whether he or she wishes to agree to an interview, examination or other specific procedure carried out by a student.

8. References

Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers Rights (1996)

9. Related Documents

CHC Informed Consent Procedure

WCDHB Research Procedure

Revision History	Version:	4
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