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Elements of Informed Consent

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Background



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Why Informed Consent?

- Legal obligation
- Improved outcomes for treatment or interventions

Elements of Informed Consent



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Principles

- Adequate information on which to make a decision
- Information provision is in an appropriate form for the circumstances
- No coercion
- Frank & honest information exchange from both parties

Process for Informed Consent



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- **Information provision – clear, accessible, timely**
 - Condition
 - Treatment and treatment options
 - Benefits
 - Side effects, expected outcomes and material risks
 - Who will be involved
 - Time
 - Costs

Process for Informed Consent



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- Evidence of consent
- Documentation
- Duration of consent

Process for Informed Consent



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- Apply the principles
- Documented policies & procedures
- For what disciplines?
- How might we link the process for informed consent to care planning processes?

Development of Guidelines



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Considerations:

- Discuss areas where informed consent is needed
- How should we introduce informed consent?
- How can informed consent be incorporated into care planning documentation?
- What tools would support improved informed consent?

The Task



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Discuss the following areas at your table (for 15 minutes) before general discussion:

1. Are there any areas of community health where we do not need informed consent?
2. How should we introduce informed consent?
3. What should be included in a checklist for informed consent?
4. What monitoring processes would be appropriate?