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Patient information about consent

What is consent?

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

In either case your consent must be given voluntarily and you must have all the information you need to make a decision. This includes what the procedure or treatment involves, the benefits and risks, the details of any alternative treatments and what may happen if the procedure or treatment does not go ahead.

How do I give consent?

Consent is a two way process between you and your health professional. It is a chance for you to ask any questions, and for the health professional to explain what your procedure will involve.

It is this establishment's policy that consent will be recorded on a consent form. The form enables the health professional, in this case the Tongue Tie Practitioner, to record the different aspects involved in consent and allows you to sign to show you agree. The form alone does not prove consent but it does confirm your joint discussion.

Whereas a baby cannot give consent for themselves, someone with parental responsibility must sign the form on their behalf. Please ask your tongue tie practitioner for advice and for further information.

Explaining the consent form

The procedure: benefits, risks and alternatives

Your tongue tie practitioner will explain the procedure to you, in particular the intended benefits of the process, any risks involved, any available alternatives and the alternative of not having the procedure.

You may be offered an information leaflet about your procedure. Where applicable, we will also give you a copy of the consent form to read in advance of your treatment. If you have not had a copy, please ask us.

Important things you need to know

Patient/parental choice is an important part of your care. You have the right to change your mind at any time, even after giving consent, and even if the procedure has started (as long as it is safe and practical to do so).

All information we hold about you is stored under the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 Patient Safety.

The consent form

Signed consent forms are kept with your/your baby's medical records. If you would like a copy, please ask your tongue tie practitioner.

Privacy and dignity

We are committed to treating all patients with privacy and dignity in a safe, clean and comfortable environment.