

Introduction

This *Obtaining Informed Consent for Service Standard of Practice* outlines the necessary steps to obtain informed consent. It does not supersede the provisions contained in the *Health Care Directives Act* (HDCA), the *Mental Health Act* (MHA), or the policies or directives of your employer if the age of consent is older than the age of 16. Registrants are responsible for meeting the expectations outlined in this Standard and the accompanying guidelines. These documents are enhanced by the following companion documents:

- *Frequently Asked Questions*
- *Facilitating Informed Consent for Service Discussion*
- *Obtaining Informed Consent for Invasive Procedures Guidelines for Audiologists*
- *Obtaining Informed Consent for Invasive Procedures Guidelines for Speech-Language Pathologists.*

Standard

College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Manitoba (CASLPM) registrants obtain informed consent prior to the delivery of services by:

- Informing clients of the nature of the service, potential risks, expected benefits, alternative options, and potential risks and benefits if consent is not given for any proposed service plans initially and whenever there are significant changes in risk, benefit, or to the services provided.
- Seeking to understand the client's perspective, concerns, values, and goals.
- Assessing client understanding of proposed services and adapting communication and treatment options accordingly.
- Obtaining informed consent from a client or from a substitute decision maker (SDM). If consent is made in any other manner than in writing, then a notation must be made to that effect in the client file.
- Respecting clients' or SDM's rights to choose service options, refuse interventions, and withdraw consent at any time.
- Documenting all instances of consent, or, under applicable circumstances, attempts to gain informed consent from the client or substitute decision maker.
- Re-establishing and documenting consent when treatment plans change.

Demonstrating the Standard

Registrants will:

- Obtain informed consent from a client or the client's SDM prior to providing a health care service.
- Obtain informed consent verbally, in writing, or as implied consent (see *Obtaining Informed Consent Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions*).

- Ensure consent is obtained and properly document each instance of obtaining informed consent.
- Ensure that the way a client provides informed consent or declines a specific health care service after having been informed, respects the client's communication needs, cultural traditions, preferences, and values while upholding the client's autonomy.
- Only provide a health care service to a client without informed consent in an urgent or emergency health situation under conditions outlined in the *Obtaining Informed Consent for Service Guidelines*.
- Undertake triage or another form of preliminary examination prior to obtaining informed consent if the circumstances require it.