Decision Tool for Practitioners: Does the Treatment or Procedure Require Signature Informed Consent?

For many treatments or procedures, an informed consent discussion and documentation of consent in the patient’s electronic health record (EHR) is sufficient. However, certain treatments and procedures require that the practitioner conduct an informed consent discussion and document the patient’s (or surrogate’s) signature consent in iMedConsent Web.

The list of treatments and procedures that require signature informed consent (referenced in VHA Handbook 1004.01) is not all inclusive. Treatments and procedures included in the list require signature informed consent each time consent is obtained. Treatments and procedures not included in the list may require signature informed consent in certain situations.

As the practitioner, consider two questions to determine if signature informed consent is required.

**Question 1:** Is the treatment or procedure included in the list of treatments and procedures that require signature informed consent?

- If the answer is yes, signature informed consent is required.
- If the answer is no, consider question #2.

**Question 2:** For this patient, will the treatment or procedure....

1. Require the use of sedation, anesthesia or narcotic analgesia?
2. Produce significant pain or discomfort to the patient?
3. Involve significant risk of complication or morbidity?
4. Require injections of any substance into a joint space or body cavity?

- If the answer is yes to any of these, signature informed consent is required.
- If the answer is no to all of these, signature informed consent is not required. The patient’s verbal consent must be documented in the EHR.

Updated 10.28.21