
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

SUBJECT: Consent for Treatment for Adults

NO. 14.0

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Patient Population

Neonate	
Pediatric	
Adolescent	
Adult	√
Geriatric	√

POLICY:

Mount Sinai Hospital requires consent for invasive or therapeutic procedures.

IMPLEMENTATION:

When informed consent is required for an invasive or therapeutic procedure to be done on an ED patient and permission cannot be obtained from the patient, and the family is not present, the following procedure is used:

1. Life-sustaining measures should never be withheld for lack of formal consent if there is no time to obtain this for urgent procedures.
2. Two physicians must document treatment.
3. Consent is required for elective blood transfusions that are not life threatening.
4. The next of kin or guardian is contacted by the physician and the indications and risks of the procedures/study are explained. If the relative is in agreement, the Mount Sinai operator is called to set up a conference call with the physician and relative. He/She will witness telephone consent. The chart should reflect this consent including the operator's name and number.
5. In the event that no relative or health care proxy can be reached and there is a question of the patient's capacity to consent, the ED attending physician shall determine whether a psychiatric consult is needed to determine capacity.
6. Refer to hospital consent sheets #1, #2, #12, #13 and transfusion protocol.