

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Rights of minor patients

The Medical Treatment Agreement Act (Wet op de geneeskundige behandelingsovereenkomst, WGBO) also sets out the rights of the child as a patient.

Giving consent

The Medical Treatment Agreement Act stipulates that a medical examination and medical treatment may only be carried out and/or provided if the patient has given his/ her consent. The Act also imposes the obligation on the healthcare provider to ensure that the patient receives all the necessary information to be able to make an informed decision.

The patient must, in any event, be informed about:

- the purpose of the examination or treatment;
- the nature of the treatment;
- the expected results and the possible risks.

The patient must also be informed about the possible treatment alternatives and what they consist of. In normal day-to-day life, the parent(s)/legal guardian make(s) these decisions on the child's behalf. This is different when it involves medical care. The Act stipulates the following in this regard:

Children up to the age of 12

Children up to the age of 12 are entirely under the control of the parent(s)/legal guardian. However, according to the Act, the parent(s)/legal guardian must take the child' s views and concerns, regarding the medical treatments or examinations, into account.

- the parent(s)/legal guardian is/are the one(s) who enter(s) into a treatment agreement with the healthcare provider and who must give consent;
- they must involve the child in the decisions, as much as possible;
- the parent(s)/legal guardian must be informed;

- the child must also be informed, but the information must be tailored to his/her level of comprehension;
- the parent(s)/legal guardian is/are entitled to inspect the medical file, the child is not. If the parent(s)/legal guardian want(s) to, they/he/she can review the file, or part thereof, with the child.

Exceptional situations call for exceptional rules. You'll find these rules on the website www.kindenziekenhuis.nl

One of the exceptions is:

- the healthcare provider may always act without the consent of the parent(s)/ legal guardian in acute situations when he/she must act immediately to avoid adverse consequences for the child.

Children between 12 and 16 years of age

According to the Act, children in this age group have an important say.

- in addition to the parent(s)/legal guardian, the child must also consent to the examination or treatment;
- the child and parent(s)/legal guardian are entitled to be informed;
- the child is entitled to inspect his/her medical file. The child will have to consent if the parent(s)/legal guardian want(s) to inspect the child's medical file.

Exceptional situations also call for exceptional rules in this respect.

- for example, if the parent(s)/legal guardian consent(s) to the treatment, but the child does not, the healthcare provider will respect the child' s wishes, on condition that doing so will not lead to serious adverse consequences for the child;
- in acute situations, the healthcare provider may always act if the child's life is in danger, even when the child and the parent(s)/legal guardian have not consented to the treatment.

Children over the age of 16

The Act views children over the age of 16 as adults.

- these young people may decide for themselves if they want to consent to medical treatment or examination;
- consent from the parent(s)/legal guardian is not required; the young people in this age group are entitled to be fully informed; the parent(s)/legal guardian will only be informed if the child agrees;
- a young person is entitled to inspect his/her medical file; he/she does not need permission from his/her parent(s)/legal guardian;
- the parent(s)/legal guardian may inspect the child's medical file if the child agrees.

In this case, the following also applies:

In acute situations, the healthcare provider may always act if the child's life is in danger, even when the child has not consented to the treatment.

More information on the rights and obligations of (minor) patients is available on our website and on the Central Government's (Rijksoverheid's) website.

Obligations

You are obliged to be honest and open when you inform your healthcare provider about your medical situation and to work actively on your recovery.

You must behave decently towards all hospital staff members. You must take note of the hospital's house rules and must adhere to them.

You must identify yourself with a valid identity document which also states your citizen service number (*Burgerservicenummer*).

You are obliged to keep your hospital appointments and to cancel appointments on time. If you don't, you will be charged for the appointment costs.

You are obliged to pay the hospital for the care provided to you. If you do not know if you are sufficiently insured, you must contact your health insurance provider beforehand.

You will be asked to sign a statement if you plan on leaving the hospital or terminating the treatment without the attending physician's permission.

Your privacy and the privacy of our staff and patients is important to us. If you take a photograph or video or make an audio recording during your stay in the hospital or while you visit the hospital, and this footage contains the voice or picture of a staff member, patient or visitor, you are obliged to ask for their permission.

Cameras are in place at various locations in the hospital, to protect our possessions as well as you and yours.



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