



Patient Consent

Must be informed and un-pressured.

Patient consent is essential prior to the release of any information of a clinical and/or financial nature from the Practice. Consent must be obtained from the patient in the following circumstances:

Where medical records / financial (billing) records are to be transferred to another medical practitioner, health service provider or health service (written consent). Patients need to be advised of the possibility their contact information only (not clinical) may be released to a debt collector if the need arises, however consent is not required in this regard. If patient information is released to a work-related insurance company, verbal consent is adequate provided this is given at the first consultation, otherwise written consent would need to be obtained.

Where identifiable patient information is required for QA & CPD activities by the practice (written consent) eg: National Prescribing Service activities. QA & CPD activities conducted by the practice warrant approval by the appropriate medical specialist college. This approval needs to be kept on record in the event when non-identifiable information is being sent.

Where a third party is present during a consultation. (verbal consent is essential prior to the consultation, written consent is also desirable) A third party person can be a family member, carer, medical student, general practice nurse, or other doctor or health professional

Where the patient is included in national/state registers/reminder systems(verbal consent with annotation of the patient health record). This involves being part of patient prevention surveys, disease registers and recall and reminder systems. Processes for these systems must ensure the privacy and confidentiality of patient health information at all times.

Where the patient is being referred to another health care service(verbal consent). This includes specialists, allied health workers, pathology, X-ray etc

Reference: RACGP Standards for General Practices 3rd Edition.