

# INFORMED CONSENT

## Quick Reference

It is the professional and legal responsibility of the immunization provider to obtain valid informed consent prior to immunization<sup>1</sup>.

### **Process for Obtaining Informed Consent**

- ☐ **Step 1: Determine Authority to Provide Informed Consent**
  - Adults (18 years and older)
  - Substitution Decision Maker of Adult (18 years and older)
  - Mature Minor (13-17 years)
  - Caregiver/ Guardian of Child (12 years and younger)
  
- ☐ **Step 2: Assess Ability to Give Informed Consent**
  - Assess language, communication methods, hearing, and cognitive abilities
  - Patient should be able to:
    - Understand the information provided
    - Remember the information provided
    - Use and weigh the information provided
    - Communicate their decision to you (by any means)
  - If you are unsure about a patient's capacity you must get advice from other healthcare professionals or people involved in their care
  
- ☐ **Step 3: Provide Standard Information and Resources**
  - Provincial immunization fact sheets can be accessed and printed at [saskatchewan.ca](http://saskatchewan.ca)
  - If the client does not understand English, provide translated versions or use an interpreter if available
  - Defer the consent process and do not proceed with immunization if provision of the standard information is refused
  - Document all details in the client's health record
  
- ☐ **Step 4: Confirm that client or representative understands the standard information**
  - Defer the consent process and do not proceed with immunization if the client does not demonstrate understanding of the standard information.
  - Document all details in the client's health record
  
- ☐ **Step 5: Provide opportunity for questions and answers**
  
- ☐ **Step 6: Confirm consent and question the client if they are ready to proceed**
  
- ☐ **Step 7: Document the client's or representative's informed consent or refusal**



**Vaccine standard information to be given and discussed with patient includes:**

- Disease(s) being prevented
- Benefits of vaccination (personal, community)
- Risks of not getting immunizations (possibility of getting disease)
- Eligibility for the vaccine(s)
- Common and expected side effects
- Possible serious, severe or unusual adverse events
- Contraindications
- Awareness that immunization information will be documented within pharmacy patient's file
- Cost of immunization prescription and administration

Adapted from:

- 1: Saskatchewan Immunization Manual: [Chapter 3 – Informed Consent](#) (March 2018)
- 2: General Pharmaceutical Council (regulator for pharmacy professionals England, Scotland, Wales): Guidance on consent

