

SUBJECT: TREATING MINORS WITH ORAL
CONTRACEPTIVE
APPROVED BY: VP/COO Acute & Long Term Care _____
EFFECTIVE DATE: 2008 08 28
REVISED DATE:
REVIEW DATE:

Purpose

A consent shall inform a client with respect to the risks, benefits and alternatives of a proposed intervention and provide written documentation of the process (including obtaining the clients written authorization to the intervention).

The consent form itself records the clients understanding and agreement to an intervention and the nature of the authority granted to the Regional Nurse and/or caregiver.

Policy/Standard

The appropriate Labrador-Grenfell Health employee or Regional Nurse must obtain a consent from the client or authorized person so as to record the clients understanding and agreement to an intervention and the nature of the authority granted to the Regional Nurse and/or caregiver, according to the guidelines outlined below.

Materials Required

Mature Minor Declaration Form (Form A-1-50-9)

Procedure:

A person 19 years of age or older is legally capable of consenting to an intervention.

An emancipated minor may, depending on the circumstances of her care, also consent to an intervention. Generally speaking, an emancipated minor is defined as a person under 19 years of age, who is married, self-sufficient/living independently or is a parent.

There are conditions under which a minor (not emancipated) may also consent. A person who has been assessed as a mature minor by a health care practitioner may consent to an intervention that is deemed as being in the best interests of the minor and her continuing health and well-being. In assessing maturity, the following factors are taken into consideration:

- The degree of responsibility the minor has assumed for his/her life;
- The seriousness of the proposed intervention;
- The intelligence of the child;
- The minor's age in relation to the age of majority (ie.19); and
- Other factors (ie. Religion and beliefs, ability to understand relevant information and appreciate reasonably foreseeable consequences, physical, mental and emotional development).

The minor should be encouraged to discuss the intervention with her parent and parental consent obtained, but this is not strictly necessary. Where parental consent cannot be obtained a *Mature Minor Declaration* form (Form A-1-50-9) must be completed. If the Regional Nurse is not comfortable with prescribing this treatment, refer to the physician.

Reference:

LGH Consent policy A-1-50