

Submitted to About the Act and Code Review
Submitted on 2024-07-18 11:49:35

Your details

1 What is your name?

[Redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:

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3 Are you submitting as an individual, or on behalf of an organisation or group?

I am submitting as an individual

4 How did you hear about this consultation?

Select from the following options:

Through my job

If you selected other, please specify below:

Questions for individuals

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Share 'one big thing' or upload a file

5 Are you here to tell us your 'one big thing'?

Your one big thing::

Right 7, clause 6(c) requires written consent for procedures under general anaesthetic and I see an intent to expand this to include sedation "equivalent to general anaesthetic".

I work in paediatrics and there is no paediatric-specific guidance here. Presumably the purpose of this requirement is that if the consumer is impaired by sedation or general anaesthetic they cannot participate in their care an ongoing verbal consenting process to ensure appropriate care is provided. Therefore the consenting takes place before the sedation/GA and is documented in written format. This makes sense for consumers consenting for themselves (16 years and older, some specific circumstances in younger consumers).

In paediatrics the set of circumstances is different. It may be that a baby has a procedure (for example IV line or nasogastric tube) with verbal consent from guardians but they are not physically in the room at the time of the procedure. There are other situations where general anaesthetic may be required for a non-invasive test like an MRI scan when the GA is required simply to facilitate the child being still for the scan.

There is no clarity in paediatrics about how to adhere to the code in these diverse situations. I suggest a paediatric-specific clause for further guidance in this area. For example if written consent is still required is the form signed by the radiographer sufficient alongside the general anaesthetic consent done by the anaesthetist? Is a separate written consent required by the clinician requesting the investigation to document that consent for the indications for the scan has been undertaken including the risk/benefit profile of it being done under anaesthesia.

In the other direction if written consent is required for procedures under sedation, how does this apply to children? If medication is given to encourage a young child to sleep for the purpose of a scan does this count? What about oral sedation to facilitate a nasogastric tube? What about a "feed and wrap" MRI scan for a baby where a feed induces sleep and then a moulded device is used to keep the baby still for a scan? How is this different to sedation or a GA? Does it differ if the guardian is in the room vs not in the room? In reference to my first point about the reason this clause was inserted in the first place, surely if the consenting party (guardian) is present they can continue to advocate for the child regardless of whether the child themselves is impaired by sedation/GA. These complexities are unexplored and, I believe, unintended consequences of the way the code is written. These need addressing as considerable variability in practice exists across the country. Specifically:

1. What is "sedation equivalent to general anaesthetic" when applied to children? Hypnotics? Oral benzodiazepines? Breastfeed?
2. What is a "procedure", does this included non-invasive tests like MRI scan?
3. What counts as "written consent" (anaesthetic consent/scan consent/consent for indications or all 3) and who is required to have done this?

6 Upload a file

File upload:
No file uploaded

Not Answered

Publishing and data protection

May we publish your submission?

Yes, but please remove my name/my organisation

Please note any part(s) of your submission you do not want published::

Reasons to withhold parts of your submission

Yes, I would like HDC to consider withholding parts of my submission from responses to OIA requests.:
No

I think these parts of my submission should be withheld, for these reasons: :

If needed, can we to contact you to follow up for more detail on your submission?

Yes, you can contact me

Would you like to receive updates about the review?

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