

Title: Informed Consent	Policy Number: 1.2
Approved by: Joe Holliday MD, MPH	Program Area: Family Planning
Effective Date: 2/1/76	Revised Date: 9/10/09

Purpose statement of policy:

To provide customer service that assures the consistent and appropriate use of informed consent for services provided by the Title X Family Planning programs for all individuals seeking care in such programs. The client’s written informed voluntary consent to receive services must be obtained prior to the client receiving any clinical services.

Definitions:

Defined within the informed consent policies the following areas must be addressed:

- The informed consent forms must be written in a language understood by the client or translated and witnessed by an interpreter.
- Prior to implementation, informed consent forms should be approved by the appropriate service site personnel.
- The client’s written informed voluntary consent to receive services such as examinations, laboratory tests, and treatment must be obtained prior to the client receiving any clinical services.
- If a client chooses a prescription method of contraception, a method-specific consent form must be obtained and updated routinely at subsequent visits to reflect current information about that method.
- To provide informed consent for contraception, the client must receive information on the benefits and risks, effectiveness, potential side effects, complications, discontinuation issues and danger signs of the contraceptive method chosen.
- The signed informed consent must be a part of the client’s record.
- All consent forms should contain a statement that the client has been counseled, provided with the appropriate informational material, and understands the content of both.
- The method-specific consent form should be renewed and updated when there is a major change in the client’s health status or a change to a different prescriptive contraceptive method.
- Any minor may give effective consent for health services for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and other reportable diseases, abuse of controlled substances or alcohol, and emotional disturbance.

Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of the local health department and its designated personnel to develop, implement, and ensure compliance among all staff in the Family Planning program on the administration of informed consent policies for all services including contraceptive methods.

Policy:

The local health department will ensure that written policies are in place for the administration of informed consents that address the above required areas in the definition section for all clients seeking services in the Title X Family Planning Clinics.

Legal Authority:

This policy is based on Title X regulations (January, 2001) Sections 7.2, 8.0 and 8.1 concerning procedures, required services and client education; and NC General Statutes Chapter 90.21.5 regarding minor's consent.

References:

Title X Guidelines can be accessed at:

https://www.grantsolutions.gov/gs/servlet/document.DownloadPdfPublicServlet?document_id=7157

North Carolina General Statutes can be accessed at:

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/Statutes/StatutesTOC.pl?Chapter=0090>

For example policies from the local level, please contact your Regional Nurse Consultant