

# **CONSENT & PRIVACY**

## ***Consent***

Prior to receiving treatment from any doctors or nurses you must provide consent. You should make sure you understand the treatment before you give permission for it to happen. Usually you can do this by talking and asking questions. Sometimes you might need to sign a written consent form. You can ask for a friend or family member to help you with this if you like. Or you can ask for an interpreter to read the form to you.

It is very common that you will need to sign a form if you are having a special test or an operation. You should make sure you understand what is going to happen before you sign the form. You can ask for an interpreter if you don't understand what is being talked about.

Generally a parent or adult carer can consent to the treatment of a child. However, sometimes a child under 18 years old can provide their own consent if a doctor believes the child is of sufficient age and maturity to understand what they are giving consent to.

## ***Privacy***

Everyone has a right to privacy and for information about them and their health be kept confidential. This means that all the health workers will only give information to other health professionals who are actually involved in your health care. This means information cannot be given to your family or friends unless you give your permission.

Some laws require health staff to give information to other government departments, such as information about the birth of babies, information about deaths and information about vaccinations and infectious diseases but this information is then also kept private as the same rules apply.

Interpreters also have to follow the same rules and should not talk about things they have interpreted for you to other people, even when they come from your community.