



Ascension

To: Columbia St. Marys Medical Staff
From: Richard Shimp, MD, Columbia St. Mary's Chief Medical Officer
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Date: March 7, 2018
Subject: Update – Informed Consent

An earlier version of this communication was sent out on 2/23/18. We have been made aware that this communication was not effective in reaching all affected Medical Staff members. Also, there have been some inquiries regarding the recommended workflow for Providers. Please review this communication for an update and clarifications.

In order to ensure that we are compliant with The Joint Commission Patient Care Standards that govern safe practices regarding informed consent, Ascension Wisconsin developed a new Informed Consent policy. **To support policy changes, on 3/1/18 changes were made to the paper consent permits. Also, new tools were implemented within the EHR for both Columbia St. Mary's campuses.** Changes are listed here.

- Separate permits for blood and procedures have replaced our current combined permit (see attached).
 - “Authorization and Consent to Surgical/Other Invasive Procedure”
 - “Consent for -or- Refusal of Transfusion of Blood or Blood Products”
- Physicians no longer sign the paper procedural permit/consents.
- Physicians must document procedure and blood product administration informed consent conversations in the electronic medical record. **
(Dictated and scanned documents are considered a part of the electronic medical record.)
- Nurses no longer are responsible for confirming the physician's documentation of informed consent.

**Each Physician can individually determine where in the medical record to attest to the informed consent discussion. While the informed consent discussion must take place before blood transfusion or procedure, it is appropriate to attest to the discussion in either pre-operative or post-operative documents.



The following tools were made available on March 1st to support an efficient workflow. (See attached Job Aid)

- Custom PowerNote Template “Attestation Informed Consent Discussion”
- Autotext
- Enhancement of current PowerNote templates:
 - Moderate Sedation Pre-Assessment H&P
 - Day Surgery H&P
 - H&P Update
- Plans are in process to also update other PowerNote templates per request of some Providers.

Contact Information regarding the Informed Consent:

EHR questions:

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Policy and Procedure questions:

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