

SAQ 7

Following a series of complaints you have been asked to review the consent process in your Emergency Department.

a. List the types of consent that can be obtained and give an example of each (3 Marks)

1/2 Mark each for:

Implied consent

Verbal

Consent

1/2 Mark each for an appropriate example of each, take only first example for each type

b. What are the requirements for a valid consent ? (2 Marks)

1/2 Mark each to maximum 4 marks for:

Capacity

Informed - patient must have received sufficient information to make decision

Specific - minimum information requirement

Allowed sufficient time to absorb and consider information given

Freely given - not coerced

c. What is the minimum information that a patient should receive when consent for treatment is being sought ? (2 Marks)

1/2 Mark each for:

Explanation of patient condition, diagnosis, or likely diagnosis

Treatment options available

Consequences, risks, side effects of proposed treatments

Consequences of not receiving treatment

d. What measures could be used to improve the consent process within the Emergency Department ? (3 Marks)

1 Mark each, to maximum of 3 marks for any of:

Review complaints / Root cause analysis

Education program

Standardise consent forms for common procedures

Audit compliance with process changes

Use of interpreters

Answers taken from:

Textbook of Adult Emergency Medicine, Cameron, 3rd Edition, Chp 25.3

Consent to Treatment Policy for the Western Australian Health System 2011, 3rd Edition