
Informed Consent Policy

Policy Code: CLI-013 **Version:** 4.0 **Effective Date:** 11 July 2019

Purpose:

This Policy governs the requirements for Clinic Clients to be informed of all necessary information and advice with respect to any Client's individual treatment.

Definition of "College" – *The Australian College of Natural Medicine Pty Ltd (ACNM) trades as Endeavour College of Natural Health and FIAFitnation. For the purpose of this Policy, any reference to 'College' or 'the College' should be considered a reference to each or any of these respective trading names.*

Scope:

- All campuses
- All academic staff
- All students
- All clinic clients

Policy Statement:

'Informed consent' refers to the agreement by a Client (or their designated substitute decision-maker), following proper and sufficient explanation by the student practitioner, of the condition, treatment, alternative treatments (where they exist), risks and benefits. Clients must be given the opportunity to ask questions and have them answered truthfully. It is the Client, not the student practitioner, who makes the decision about their own treatment.

Where the Client is a child, informed consent is given by the child's parent or guardian. If the child is a mature minor, the [Consent for Treatment of a Mature Minor form](#) must be received by the College prior to treatment being provided.

Informed Consent presumes the following:

- all adults have legal capacity to consent. If the client does not have capacity, refer to the relevant State's Guardianship and Administration laws

- in so far as it is possible, consent is voluntarily given, in absence of the influence of therapeutic or other drugs or alcohol, family, religious, cultural and healthcare provider influences
- the client / parent / guardian / substitute decision-maker has sufficient time to consider the information provided by the student practitioner
- a competent adult may refuse any and all medical treatment contrary to the student practitioner's recommendations
- an awareness that the clinics are places where people gather, sometimes in close proximity. Traditionally, the natural medicine environment has been regarded as 'low-risk' in relation to infection control, however, there may be risks of infection that occur between natural health professionals and their clients. These risks cannot be eliminated totally because it is possible that people who are incubating, ill from or carrying infectious agents may attend the College clinics without knowing their infectious status.

Related Procedures:

[First Aid and Infection Control Procedure](#)

Definitions: **Child** – means a person under the age of 18 years.
 Mature Minor – means a person aged between 16 and 18.

Further Information:

Related Policies: [Notifiable Diseases and Infection Control Policy](#)

Benchmarking: Not applicable

Supporting Research and Analysis: Not applicable

Related Documents: [Client History Forms \(specific to disciplines\)](#)
 [Clinic Handbook](#)
 [Consent for Treatment of a Mature Minor form](#)
 [Withdrawal of Consent for Treatment of a Mature Minor form](#)

Related Legislation: [National Health Security Act 2007](#)
 <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2016C00847>

Australian Guardianship Legislation

Guidelines:

Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-guidelines-prevention-and-control-infection-healthcare-2010>

Policy Author:	Associate Director – Clinical Services
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Recommending Committee:	Academic Board Meeting date: 09 June 2011
Approval Committee:	College Council Meeting date: 09 December 2011
Policy Status:	Revised
Responsibilities for Implementation:	Associate Director – Clinical Services Director of Education National VET Manager
Key Stakeholders:	Academic Staff Associate Director – Clinical Services Dean and Operations Director Director of Education Director, Student Services and Retention Clinic Supervisors National VET Manager National WH&S Committee Students