

*Your Health Connection*



**simcoe  
muskoka**  
DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT



# Medical Directives & Obtaining Informed Consent

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# What are Medical Directives?

- ◆ Physician orders that are not client specific
- ◆ They outline the **procedures, treatments or interventions** that may be implemented by **designated staff** members for certain groups of clients under specific conditions and circumstances



# When do we need a Medical Directive?

- ◆ When a procedure falls within one of 13 Controlled Acts authorized to physicians (or dental surgeons) but not authorized to the staff expected to implement the procedure.
- ◆ With Immunization, we are performing:
  - ◆ **Controlled Act # 5** – Administering a substance by injection or inhalation. This is a controlled act, which is in the scope of nursing practice. A member of the College of Nurses may perform this procedure if a physician, dentist, chiropodist or midwife orders it.
  - ◆ **Controlled Act # 8** – Refers to the prescribing, dispensing, selling or compounding of a drug. Dispensing includes the selection, preparation and transfer of one or more doses to a client. **When an RN or RPN administers a vaccine he/she is selecting, preparing and transferring the age appropriate dose of the vaccine to a person.**



# Delegation of a Controlled Act

- ◆ RNs, RPNs and PHNs employed by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and authorized under a medical directive will have the required knowledge, skill and judgement to administer a vaccine safely, effectively, and ethically. The nurses have knowledge of the vaccine products, including the risks and benefits involved in administering.

## Requirements:

- ◆ Certificate of Competence with College of Nurses
- ◆ Advanced medication course (if needed)
- ◆ Current CPR (annually)
- ◆ Comprehensive orientation (annually)
- ◆ Review of relevant resources



# Obtaining Consent

According to the Health Care Consent Act (HCCA) and the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) standards, nurses are accountable for obtaining consent for interventions they provide.

A person is capable of giving consent if he or she:

- ◆ Understands the information
- ◆ Appreciates the consequences of a decision or lack of decision

**There is no minimum age for consent**



# Elements Required for Consent to Treatment

- ◆ The consent must relate to the treatment
- ◆ The client must have the capacity to consent
- ◆ The consent must be given voluntarily
- ◆ The consent must not be obtained through misrepresentation or fraud
- ◆ The consent must be informed



# What is Informed Consent?

An informed consent means the client must be provided with the information about the treatment that a reasonable person in the same situation would require to make a decision to consent or refuse the vaccine.

This information must include:

- ◆ The nature of the treatment
- ◆ Expected benefits
- ◆ Risks and side effects
- ◆ Alternative courses of action
- ◆ Likely consequences of not having the treatment

You must answer requests for additional information

