

Audit on consent form completion of paediatric dental patients who have undergone procedures under general anaesthesia

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Obtaining consent is vital for invasive procedures as it ensures patient rights and prevents potential medico-legal violations. This clinical audit aims to improve consent form completion in the Paediatric Dentistry Department, HRPB. **Methods:** This 2-cycle audit encompasses paediatric dental patients who underwent elective procedures under GA from April to June 2022 and January to March 2023. The form used in the Malaysian Ministry of Health, the 'Consent Forms for Operations/Procedure' contains 33 or 38 items, depending on interpreter involvement. The standard for all these items was set at '100% complete', according to the MMC Guideline and expert opinions. The Achievement Rate [(Number of forms fully filled) / (Total number of forms) x 100%] was set at 80% for the interim standard and 100% as the final standard. After the first cycle, an action plan was implemented, including a slideshow presentation and verbal reminders during monthly meetings. A printed reminder and sample consent form were displayed on the department notice board. **Results:** In the first cycle, the Achievement Rate was 44.1% (30/68 forms). It rose to 92.2% (59/64 forms) in the second cycle. The item with the lowest completion rate in the first cycle, 'Witness IC' (35/68) achieved 100% completion in the second cycle (64/64). The item 'date consent was taken, second page' had the lowest completion in the second cycle, left blank only twice, while nearly all other items were fully filled. **Conclusion:** The completion rate of consent forms significantly improved after implementing the action plan, meeting the interim standard of 80%. Regular audits must be performed to maintain quality.