

# **CHRIS LEWNS IMPLANT AND DENTAL CENTRE**

## **Patient Consent Policy**

At Chris Lewns Implant and Dental Centre we aim to treat our patients with respect and politeness, to give them sufficient information to allow them to make an informed decision on their treatment and to recognise their needs and wishes.

### **Informed Consent**

We discuss with all our patients their treatment needs and provide them with the different options available, even if we cannot offer them in the practice. We make sure they understand the risks and benefits of all treatment options and will also say what we feel is appropriate for them.

They will be provided with a written estimate of treatment and costs after they have attended for initial consultation or after an examination appointment if it is found treatment is required.

We make sure that our staff are trained to explain estimates honestly to patients or will refer the patient back to the dentist or the practice manager if there are any queries or questions.

If the treatment needs to be changed once started we will inform the patient of this and confirm that they consent to the changes.

### **Voluntary Decision Making**

We make sure that the patient is allowed to make their decision without any time restraints or pressure. We respect that patients can withdraw their consent at any time and that we will then discuss with them their reasons and alternatives. We understand that the patient has the right to refuse treatment and that we have the right to refuse to treat a patient should we consider the treatment clinically inappropriate.

### **Ability to give consent – Adults**

We respect that every adult has a right to make his or her own decisions and must be assumed to have capacity to give consent unless proved otherwise. In cases where we are concerned whether the patient fully understands we would endeavour to explain to the patient in a way in which they could understand and also try to involve carers and family. We would refer to the Mental Health Act 2007 to make sure that we adhere to the principles of the act.

### **Ability to give consent – Children**

We respect that the age of consent for children is 16. We understand that although at 16 and 17 they may consent to their own treatment, they do not have an absolute right to refuse treatment. We appreciate however that this can only be overridden by the court and always act with the patient's best interest.

We understand that children under 16 must either be Gillick competent or that whoever has parental responsibility gives permission for treatment.

At all times we will act in the patient's best interest and if we have any concerns we would consult our defence organisation.

### **Change History**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Details of Change</i>
<i>Feb 2011</i>	<i>Creation</i>
<i>Feb 2011</i>	<i>Review</i>