

(Rev. 135, Issued: 02-27-15, Effective: 04-27-15, Implementation: 04-27-15)

§483.440(f)(3)(ii) Insure that these programs are conducted only with the written informed consent of the client, parents (if the client is a minor) or legal guardian; and

Guidance §483.440(f)(3)(ii)

The committee must ensure that written informed consent must be obtained prior to implementation of any restrictive or intrusive program. In the event of an emergency, the facility may obtain a verbal consent, which must be authenticated in writing as soon as possible and subsequently submitted to the committee as verification.

The consent is required for the entire behavior management program not just the specific restrictive technique.

Consent is informed when the person giving consent is fully aware of the:

- specific treatment;
- reason for treatment or procedure;;
- the attendant risks vs. benefits;
- alternatives;
- right to refuse; and
- the consequences associated with consent or refusal of the program.

Informed consent must be in writing and must be specific to the program and restrictive practice and reflect a specific time frame. Blanket consents are not allowed. In the case of unplanned events such as assault and property destruction requiring immediate action, verbal consent may be obtained. However, it should be authenticated in writing as soon as reasonably possible (within 30 days).

For clients up to the age of 18, their parent or legally appointed guardian must give consent for him or her. At the age of 18, however, clients become adults and are assumed to be competent unless otherwise determined by a court.

For clients who are adults and have not been adjudicated incompetent and have not been assigned a legal guardian who may not fully understand the consequences of the program, informed consent for use of restrictive programs, practices or procedures should be obtained from a person or an entity in accordance with state law, to act as the representative or advocate of the client's interests.

The specially constituted committee must ensure that the informed and voluntary consent of the client, parent of a minor, legal guardian, or the person or organization designated by the state is obtained prior to each of the following circumstances:

- The involvement of the client in research activities; or
- Implementation of programs or practices that could abridge or involve risks to client protections or rights.