

**Consent: patients and doctors making decisions together**

Meeting of the Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Palliative Care

11 June 2008

General Medical Council  
Regulating doctors  
Ensuring good medical practice

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Background to the new guidance**

- *Seeking Patients' Consent: the Ethical Considerations* - published in 1998
- Developments in statute and common law over the past ten years
- Changes in attitudes of both doctors and patients
- Decision to produce revised guidance taken in 2006.



General Medical Council

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

**Consultation**



- Working group formed to develop proposal for new guidance
- Over 2000 organisations and individuals across the UK were invited to participate in written consultation
- Workshop events held with performance of a play to stimulate comment and debate of key issues.

General Medical Council

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Consultation**

- Worked with partner organisations to gain insight into the issues faced by patients, particularly those whose capacity is impaired
- Met representatives of UK government health departments
- Legal review to ensure consistent with framework for medical decision making in all four home countries.

General Medical Council

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

**The guidance**



- Focuses on the importance of the doctor-patient partnership in decision making
- Reflects the shift in professional and public attitudes towards more patient-centred care
- Sets obtaining consent in the context of wider process of discussion and decision-making

General Medical Council

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

**The guidance**



- Includes advice on
  - approaching discussions with patients about risk
  - what to do when patients do not want information about their condition or treatment options
  - making decisions when patients lack capacity, reflecting the Adults with Incapacity Act.

General Medical Council

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Next Steps**

- Raising awareness of the guidance
- Guidance on end of life issues
- Guidance on consent to research

General Medical Council

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Consent: patients and doctors making decisions together

Suzanne Wood  
Policy Adviser  
Standards and Ethics Team  
General Medical Council  
Direct Tel: 020 7189 5414  
[swood@gmc-uk.org](mailto:swood@gmc-uk.org)

General Medical Council  
Regulating doctors  
Ensuring good medical practice

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---