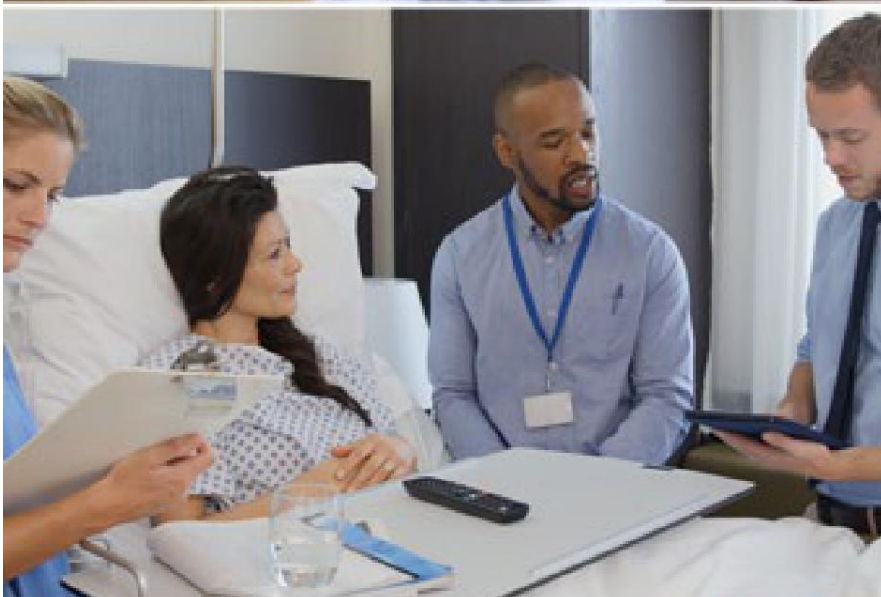
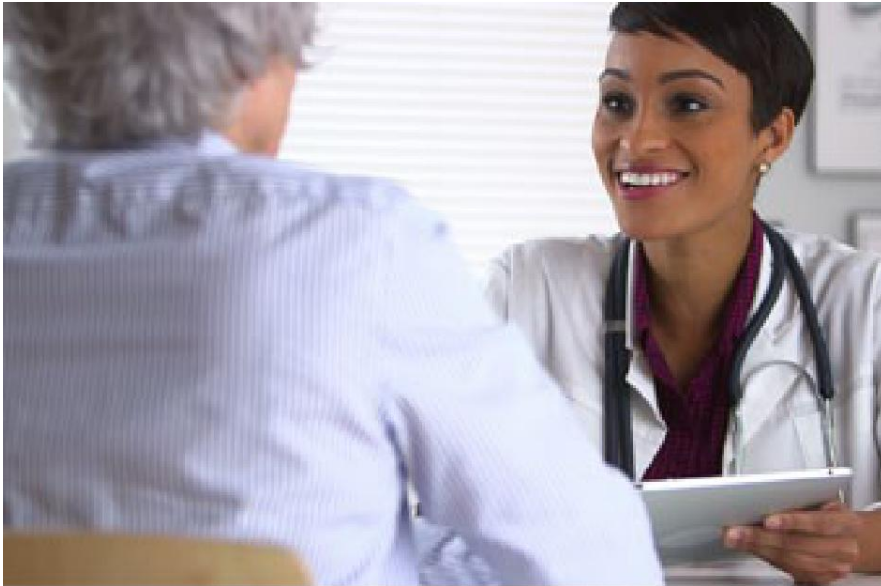




Informed Consent



Overview

If you're dealing with a medical issue, or helping manage a loved one's care, know that you have the legal right to make healthcare decisions. Doctors and caregivers will make sure you understand your condition and your treatment options. You'll use that information to make choices that are right for you. We call this "informed consent."

The Process

The process of informed consent involves conversations and documents. For example, let's say you need a medical treatment. You talk about the treatment with your healthcare provider. You learn how it is done. You learn how it could affect you. You talk about ways it could help you. You also talk about risks, and how it could possibly harm you. And, you talk about alternatives (these are things you could do instead of having the treatment). Then, you'll be asked to sign documents to show that you understand what you've been told.

Understanding is Key

If you don't understand something during this process, ask questions. Keep asking until you do understand. If you need a translator, ask for one. Your healthcare provider wants you to have a clear picture of your situation and your choices.

Conclusion

Informed consent helps you stay in control of your care. It helps you and your doctor talk in a meaningful way. It helps avoid medical errors. And, it helps make sure you are happy with your treatment. For more information about informed consent, talk to your doctor.