



## **Precision Surgery Clinic Consent Policy**

### **Introduction**

The Precision Surgery Clinic is committed to providing safe and person-centred care in line with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) guidelines. This policy outlines the principles and processes we follow to ensure informed consent is obtained before any minor surgical procedure takes place, respecting individual autonomy and upholding legal requirements.

### **Informed Consent:**

Our understanding of informed consent is guided by CQC Regulation 11 and related guidance:

**Capacity:** We presume capacity unless proven otherwise and take all practicable steps to support decision-making for those with potential impairment.

**Information provision:**

We provide clear, accessible, and comprehensive information about the proposed procedure, including:

- Nature and purpose*
- Expected benefits and risks*
- Alternative treatments and their impact*
- Potential complications and side effects*
- Recovery process and any limitations*
- Anaesthesia options and associated risks*

**Open communication and questions:**

We actively encourage questions and address all concerns thoroughly before a decision is made.

**Voluntary decision-making:**

We ensure no pressure or coercion influences the patient's choice.

**Obtaining Consent:**

Pre-operative consultations involve detailed discussions with the surgeon or designated healthcare professional, using language tailored to the patient's understanding.

We provide a written consent form summarising key information discussed and leaving space for questions.

Patients have sufficient time to review the information, ask questions, and discuss concerns with healthcare professionals or others, including advocates, if desired.

Signatures on the consent form confirm comprehension and voluntary agreement to the procedure.

### **Special Considerations:**

**Minors:** As per Gillick competence, consent for minors under 16 requires appropriate involvement of a parent/legal guardian based on their understanding and maturity.

**Mental Capacity Act 2005:** For individuals lacking capacity, their best interests guide decision-making, involving assessments and discussions with relevant individuals like deputies or family members. These situations will not usually apply to the clinic procedures and it is very unlikely we will be performing treatment on someone that lacks capacity, unless it is for a very obvious functional deficit, i.e. a large cyst causing recurrent infection/impairment of function.

**Emergency situations:** In exceptional situations where obtaining informed consent is impossible due to urgency, procedures may proceed only to save life or prevent significant harm. This is unlikely to be relevant to the procedures carried out in the Precision Surgery Clinic.

### **Withdrawal of Consent:**

We acknowledge the right to withdraw consent at any point, even after signing the form. Patients can inform their surgeon or any healthcare professional at any time. We will discuss their concerns and explore alternative options, if available, without any pressure or discrimination.

### **CQC Compliance and Continuous Improvement:**

This policy aligns with CQC regulations and guidance, reviewed and updated regularly to reflect best practices and legal changes.

Staff receive training on obtaining informed consent, ensuring consistent application of this policy.

We welcome feedback and address any concerns regarding the consent process through our internal complaints procedure. (Please see complaints policy)

**Conclusion:**

The Precision Surgery Clinic prioritises informed consent as a cornerstone of ethical and patient-centred care. We strive to empower patients with knowledge and facilitate open communication, respecting their autonomy and CQC's guidance.