**Major elements of informed consent**

**Name**

**Institution**

**Field**

**Due date**

Informed consent is the process of education and communication from a clinical investigator to a study participant regarding a clinical investigation. It is designed to ensure that the client adequately understands the procedures, risks, and benefits of participation in a clinical trial allowing an educated decision on whether or not to participate.

Confidentiality is a promise made by the researcher that the information from the research will not be disclosed. It is one of the methods of protecting the privacy of a client. There are times when confidentiality needs to be maintained throughout the research process and if this cannot be done, informed consent should not be obtained.

However, there are circumstances in which a human service professional can violate privacy and confidentiality in testing or clinical work. It is arguably one of the most difficult exercises of conscience in a clinical setting, when a client asks for the professional believes it would be justified to violate a promise of confidentiality by disclosing information to someone else. The principles of confidentiality in the legal, medical, and clinical professions are clear. All information about the client is confidential unless the client consent to it being disclosed or a court has ruled that certain details must be revealed.

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This element describes the process by which ethical approval is granted for any form of participation in research, whether it is observation or experimentation. It must be clear that both clients are entering into the project of their own free will and have made a decision to go through with it based on an accurate understanding of what is expected of them and can give voluntary consent. These elements also include telling clients about their rights as an employee. These rights are taken into consideration and confidential information will be collected and stored. Clients may request their health data not be known by the employer. They have the right to have their information destroyed if they decide to end the participation process.

The first element that an informed consent should contain is the document that describes the proposed intervention. This document ensures the validity of scientific studies and the involvement and knowledge of the clients. This element includes respecting the clients, respecting their autonomy, ensuring social relevance, meeting standardized expectations, giving enough information, and giving the appropriate information.

The second element that informed consent should have is the record emphasizing the client's role in decision-making. This is a very important record because it means that the client has the right to ask questions and participate in their care. This element assures clients that they have rights over their bodies, including the right to refuse a contract or even terminate it if they so choose. This record also means that you have enough information to make an informed decision, have been offered the necessary options to make an informed decision, and can comprehend and appreciate these options.

The third element of informed consent is the report that discusses alternatives to the proposed intervention. This report may include other studies or services available in the particular area. It is crucial to outline to the potential client the options or alternatives that are available besides taking part in the proposed intervention. The client must be informed of the benefits and drawbacks of the alternatives and given the option of choosing either the proposed intervention or the alternatives.

Last but not least, the informed consent should have a report that discusses the risks of the proposed intervention. The potential client must be fully informed of all the anticipated risks related to the study as part of the informed consent procedure. In addition to the physical dangers, consideration must be given to psychological and social ones as well, such as social stigmatization of clients that are HIV/AIDS positive. If new risks emerge while the intervention is being conducted, clients must be informed.

In conclusion, the last element of informed consent is that the document should contain eliciting the client’s concern. Eliciting of the client is done by a doctor whereby the doctor carries out an open randomized controlled trial. Clients who were determined to have a self-limiting disease in the first part of the consultation were randomly assigned to either a second section of the consultation. Elicitation of the client’s view enables the researcher to understand the general health of the clients. The benefit of this element includes relieving the client’s anxieties as well as improving satisfaction.

**Circumstances under which a human service professional can be a breach**

Professional ethics specify, among other things, that a provider of services to a patient or client should never disclose private information about them without the client’s consent. This understanding of confidentiality is essential for the proper functioning of any client-centered service system. But it does not mean absolute secrecy at all times. In certain circumstances, a human services professional may breach this general understanding. This depends on the assessment of the actual danger to the client’s acts and beliefs about whether such danger outweighs the predicted harm to other clients.

Whenever human service professional considers breaching confidentiality, they must recognize how special circumstances might need their intervention. This is often called the "duty to warn" or “duty to protect”, and it is something that the client should be sure that your employer and agency guidelines support before you raise any questions about confidentiality.

Confidentiality is an ethical standard that should be the foundation of any human services relationship. It can be summarized as the participant’s right to decide what and how much of their personal information to share, and with whom. Confidentiality is a mainstay of the therapeutic relationship in human services and clinical settings. But what do we mean by confidentiality? How does it work? What gives it integrity and power from clients and human service professionals? And why should we care?

The law does not require healthcare providers to violate confidentiality, especially if the client has given informed consent. If a client tells you he or she has HIV/AIDS, you must first ensure that he or she is aware of the importance of maintaining confidentiality. If a client asks for advice about protecting the identity of his or her partner but refuses to reveal the partner’s name, you are not required to disclose the partner’s identity. If your state recognizes a “duty to warn” in HIV/AIDS matters, your ethical obligation will lead you to personally warn your client’s sexual partner after informing the client.

The duty to warn applies when the client being assessed poses an imminent danger to self or others. Since clinicians, counselors, and social scientists are not law enforcement agents, they do not have this legal duty in and of themselves. However, the employer is obligated to consider the welfare of others in the community. Therefore, if a client threatens staff, there may be a legal responsibility for staff to report this information.

# References

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