

6. PATIENT CONSENT

INTRODUCTION

Consent for any medical intervention is a legal requirement. The General Medical Council (GMC)¹, the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG)² and the Department of Health³ have produced guidance on the legal and ethical considerations when seeking patient consent. This section is not intended to reproduce those guidelines, but to highlight the specific concerns that were raised by case review of this sample.

Key points

In 32% of cases, clinicians did not answer the question as to whether consent had been provided for the procedure.

Written consent was provided by 66% of patients with dementia or acute confusion who may not have had the capacity to consent.