

STATE OF NEW YORK

168

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 4, 2017

Introduced by Sen. RIVERA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to the provision of informed consent, by patients or their representatives, to medical and surgical procedures; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new article 17 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 17

INFORMED CONSENT

Section 1700. Definitions.

1701. Notice of right to informed consent.

1702. Duty to obtain informed consent.

1703. Procedures and surgery requiring informed consent.

1704. Surgery; informed consent not required.

1705. Capacity to provide informed consent.

1706. Scope of informed consent.

1707. Patient involvement in their care.

§ 1700. Definitions. As used in this article:

1. "Emergency" means a circumstance in which a patient's condition is such that a failure to provide hospitalization, medical treatment and/or surgery to a patient would result in undue suffering, death or substantial impairment of physical or mental function.

2. "Informed consent" means the legally effective knowing consent of a patient or his or her legally authorized representative, so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice without undue inducement or any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress or other form of constraint

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD02113-01-7

1 or coercion. With regard to consent to a medical procedure or surgery,
2 the elements of information necessary for consent include:

3 (a) a fair and understandable explanation to the patient or his or her
4 legally authorized representative of the procedures to be followed and
5 their purposes, including identification of any procedures which are
6 experimental;

7 (b) a description of any attendant pain, discomfort and material risks
8 possible and those that are reasonably expected;

9 (c) a description of any benefits reasonably to be expected;

10 (d) a disclosure of any appropriate alternative procedures that may be
11 advantageous to the patient;

12 (e) a disclosure of the risks, benefits, pain and discomfort of
13 election to refuse any procedure;

14 (f) an offer to answer any inquiries by the patient or his or her
15 legally authorized representative concerning any and all information
16 provided pursuant to this subdivision;

17 (g) a comprehensive inquiry by the health care provider to ensure that
18 the patient or his or her legally authorized representative has suffi-
19 cient understanding of the information provided pursuant to this subdi-
20 vision so as to understand the medical procedures and/or surgery that
21 the patient will undergo; and

22 (h) an instruction that the patient or his or her legally authorized
23 representative is free to withdraw his or her consent and discontinue a
24 medical procedure or surgery at any time.

25 3. "Invasive procedure" means a medical procedure involving a skin
26 incision or puncture, or insertion of an instrument or foreign material
27 into the body.

28 4. "Material risk" means a risk that a health care provider knows
29 would be regarded as significant by a reasonable person in the patient's
30 position when deciding to accept or refuse the recommended medical
31 procedure or surgery.

32 5. "Surgery" means a medical procedure performed to structurally alter
33 the human body by the incision or destruction of human tissue; or for
34 diagnostic or therapeutic treatment of conditions or disease processes
35 by any instruments causing localized alteration or transposition of live
36 human tissue.

37 6. "Unexpected complication" means an emergency in which care is imme-
38 diately necessary and presents an imminently life threatening risk to
39 the patient or to prevent a substantial impairment of physical or mental
40 function, which care exceeds that which was agreed to in an informed
41 consent.

42 § 1701. Notice of right to informed consent. Every health care provid-
43 er and health care facility which performs medical procedures or
44 surgery, shall, at the site on which such procedures or surgery is
45 performed, conspicuously post the following notice:

46 "Every patient has the right to be informed of any surgical or medical
47 procedure to be performed upon them, and shall have the right to consent
48 to or refuse such procedure. To assure informed decision making and
49 consent, patients or their legally authorized representatives must have
50 information on the patient's medical status, diagnosis and prognosis.
51 Informed consent is required to be documented prior to proceeding with
52 any medical or surgical procedure."

53 § 1702. Duty to obtain informed consent. It shall be the duty of the
54 health care provider who orders or performs any medical procedure or
55 surgery to obtain, in writing, the informed consent of the patient or
56 his or her legally authorized representative. The obtaining of such

1 consent shall include the provision and discussion of all information
2 necessary for such consent, and the documentation in the patient's
3 medical record that all requirements for informed consent have been
4 complied with. No medical procedure or surgery shall be performed with-
5 out informed consent, and the health care provider who ordered such
6 procedure or surgery shall be solely responsible for ensuring informed
7 consent is obtained.

8 § 1703. Procedures and surgery requiring informed consent. The follow-
9 ing medical procedures shall require the obtaining of informed consent
10 prior to the performance thereof:

- 11 1. all surgery, except simple laceration repairs and dermatological
12 procedures performed on an outpatient basis;
- 13 2. experimental procedures or treatments;
- 14 3. administration of blood or blood products;
- 15 4. electroconvulsive therapy;
- 16 5. administration of neuroleptic medication for treatment of a mental
17 illness or a developmental disability;
- 18 6. any medical treatment necessary to preserve the life or health of a
19 person committed to a facility pursuant to the mental hygiene law;
- 20 7. radiation therapy;
- 21 8. invasive medical imaging;
- 22 9. procedures involving moderate to deep sedation where there is a
23 risk of the loss of protective reflexes;
- 24 10. invasive procedures;
- 25 11. circumcision; and
- 26 12. sterilization.

27 § 1704. Surgery; informed consent not required. 1. In the event that
28 an emergency makes it impossible or impractical to obtain informed
29 consent without jeopardizing the life or health of a patient, medical
30 treatment may be provided to preserve the life or health of such patient
31 without informed consent. In each such instance, the health care provid-
32 er providing such treatment shall document, in the patient's medical
33 record, the facts which establish that such situation was an emergency.
34 Such treatment may continue until the patient or his or her legally
35 authorized representative is able to provide informed consent. The
36 provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to any patient who has
37 previously made known in a document filed with his or her health care
38 provider that he or she does not wish to receive such emergency treat-
39 ment under the circumstances which exist.

40 2. In the event a medical complication arises in the course of a
41 medical procedure or surgery, a health care provider may provide such
42 treatment as is necessary to preserve the patient's life without
43 informed consent.

44 3. The provisions of this article shall not apply to any medical
45 procedure or surgery ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction. A
46 copy of such court order shall be included in the patient's medical
47 record.

48 § 1705. Capacity to provide informed consent. Absent a court finding
49 or legal documentation providing to the contrary, every person who is
50 eighteen years of age or older shall be deemed to be competent to
51 provide informed consent. Absent the designation of a legally authorized
52 representative, only such person may grant informed consent. Except as
53 otherwise provided in statutory or case law, unemancipated persons under
54 the age of eighteen years shall not be authorized to grant informed
55 consent, and such consent may only be provided by the minor's parent or
56 legal guardian.

1 § 1706. Scope of informed consent. 1. The following shall be addressed
2 prior to the provision of informed consent to a medical procedure or
3 surgery:

4 (a) a description of the proposed medical procedure or surgery,
5 including any anesthesia proposed to be administered;

6 (b) the indications for the proposed medical procedure or surgery;

7 (c) material risks and benefits to the patient from the proposed
8 procedure or surgery;

9 (d) treatment alternatives, and the risks and benefits thereof;

10 (e) consequences for declining the proposed or alternative treatments;

11 (f) designate the health care providers who will be engaged in the
12 provision of the medical procedure or surgery to the patient, and the
13 qualifications of such health care providers; and

14 (g) an ample opportunity for the patient or his or her legally author-
15 ized representative to ask questions and have such questions clearly and
16 fully answered relating to the proposed treatment of the patient.

17 2. Each informed consent shall be confined to those medical procedures
18 and surgeries that were discussed by the health care provider and the
19 patient or his or her legally authorized representative. Every informed
20 consent shall state the subjects discussed and the procedures and
21 surgeries that were agreed to. An informed consent may be rescinded at
22 any time prior to the performance of the medical procedure or surgery.

23 3. Every executed informed consent shall be included in the medical
24 record of the patient to whom it relates and shall include:

25 (a) the name of the facility at which the medical procedure or surgery
26 is to be performed;

27 (b) the designation of the medical procedure or surgery to be
28 performed and for which consent is given;

29 (c) the names of the health care providers performing the medical
30 procedure or surgery;

31 (d) a statement that the provisions of subdivision one of this section
32 have been complied with;

33 (e) the signature of the patient or his or her legally authorized
34 representative;

35 (f) the date and time the consent was executed;

36 (g) the name of the health care provider who discussed treatment with
37 the patient or his or her legally authorized representative;

38 (h) the signature of a person who witnessed the execution of such
39 consent, and the date and time thereof;

40 (i) the name of the patient; and

41 (j) statements of whether medical students will be viewing the proce-
42 dure or surgery, whether such procedure or surgery will be recorded, and
43 as to the removal, testing and disposition of tissue.

44 § 1707. Patient involvement in their care. Every patient and their
45 legally authorized representative shall have the right to be informed of
46 and involved in the decision making process relating to such patient's
47 medical care. To the extent practicable, all information provided pursu-
48 ant to this section shall be provided in clear and easily understandable
49 terms. Where medically significant alternatives for care and treatment
50 exist, the patient shall be so informed.

51 § 2. Subdivision 4 of section 2404 of the public health law is
52 REPEALED.

53 § 3. Subdivision 3 of section 2404-a of the public health law is
54 REPEALED.

55 § 4. Section 2442 of the public health law is REPEALED.

56 § 5. Section 2499 of the public health law is REPEALED.

1 § 6. Subdivision 4 of section 2783 of the public health law is
2 REPEALED.

3 § 7. Section 2805-d of the public health law is REPEALED.

4 § 8. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
5 ing the date on which it shall have become a law; provided, however,
6 that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any
7 rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its
8 effective date are authorized and directed to be made and completed on
9 or before such effective date.