

## Flowchart for healthcare staff

**If a patient is of sound mind they are entitled to decide which, if any, of the available treatments to undergo and their consent must be obtained before treatment.**

**In order to obtain and document informed consent the three questions below together with the sub-questions should be addressed:**

**1. Does the patient know about the material risks of the treatment being proposed?**

This is the fundamental question and can be addressed by asking the following sub questions:

1a. What sort of risks would a reasonable person in the patient's circumstances want to know?

1b. What sort of risks would this particular patient want to know?

1c. Does the patient know about reasonable alternatives to this treatment?

1d. Has reasonable care been taken to ensure that the patient knows and understands the above?

**2. Do any of the exceptions to the duty to disclose apply?**

**3. Has the consent process been properly documented?**