

# Verne Dental Centre

## Consent:

### What is it and how do we get it?

We treat patients politely and with respect, recognising their dignity and rights as individuals. We encourage patients to be involved in decisions about their care. Before embarking on any aspect of patient care, we seek their consent to do so – recognising the rights of patients to decide what happens to their bodies and to refuse advice or treatment.

### **Valid consent**

For consent to be valid it must be given voluntarily by an appropriately informed person who has capacity to consent to the proposed treatment. Those with capacity to consent include:

- The patient
- Someone with parental responsibility for a patient that is under the age of 18
- Someone authorised to do so under a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) there is now the provision of a code which we can use online to check that of the LPA
- Someone who has authority to make treatment decisions as a court appointed deputy.

Capacity: Patients who have capacity to provide consent can do so for themselves

We assess a patient's capacity to make a decision for themselves to ensure they:

- · Understand the information that you are given to them
- · Retain the information for long enough to make the decision
- · Use the information to make a decision
- · Communicate their decision (verbally or non-verbally).

Some patients may be able to consent to some treatment, but not to other treatment and may be better at making decisions at some times but not at others. It is important that, for these patients, that we do the least invasive treatment with the patients best interests.

### **Relevant information**

A person cannot consent to treatment if they have not been fully informed. We try to ensure patients are given sufficient information and in a way that they can understand. We may advise bringing a friend or relative to the appointment so that they can review what was discussed when they have left the surgery.

Our discussions with our patients explore all options:

- · The type and extent of treatment being proposed
- · Why you think that the treatment is necessary
- · The advantages and disadvantages of the treatment
- · What alternatives are available
- · Any significant risks and side-effects
- · What might happen if the treatment is not carried out

- The patient's freedom to choose, even if their choice is not your preferred option
- The patient's right to change their mind and withdraw consent at any time.

We will always make sure that patients are aware whether they are being treated privately or on the NHS. We will ensure patients are given a treatment plan or FP17 with all costs. Any changes will be updated and signed off.

### **Voluntary decision making**

Decisions about their care must be made by the patient, and without pressure. We will ensure that patients can change their mind about treatment at any time and can refuse to give their consent to the treatment.

If a patient refuses to give consent we will try to understand their concerns, provide you with the best advice and make sure consequences are understood and relevant advice to control symptoms until a decision can be made.

### **For Those who lack consent**

We will endeavour to carry out treatment which is minimally invasive and in the patients best interest until we can get consent.

