## Purpose
Identify consents specific to the NICU in line with Covenant Health

## Policy Statement
Families have the right to be informed about the benefits and risks of any treatment/procedure to be performed on their infant, and to make an informed voluntary decision (with certain exceptions under the Mental Health Act). The most responsible health practitioner providing treatment/procedure has a duty to inform the family of the nature of the treatment/procedure, its risks and benefits, alternatives and consequences. Information should be conveyed accurately and in a manner that the family can understand. Informed consent can be expressed verbally or in writing in line with Covenant Health’s Consent Policy.

## Applicability
All Covenant Health employees in the Neonatal Nursery

## Policy Elements
1. Consent written(signed) consent or Informed or verbal consent is required for the following:

### SIGNED CONSENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surgical Procedures</th>
<th>Drugs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circumcision</td>
<td>BLES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phrenotomy</td>
<td>Synagis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blood</th>
<th>Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exchange Transfusion</td>
<td>Neonatal Metabolic Screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood and Blood Product Administration</td>
<td>(NMS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body Fluid</th>
<th>Refusal of Treatment/procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donor Human Milk</td>
<td>Covenant Health Corporate Policy &amp; Procedure, Consent to Treatment/procedure(s) VII-B-70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Withdrawal of Consent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autopsy</td>
<td>Covenant Health Corporate Policy &amp; Procedure, Consent to Treatment/procedure(s) VII-B-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cremation of Body</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunizations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organ Donations and Transplantations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in a Research Project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient photography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Documentation
The most responsible health practitioner is responsible for ensuring appropriate documentation of the consent process and outcomes. Specifically, the following outcomes shall be documented:

- Agreement to the treatment/procedure(s)
- Refusal of the treatment/procedure(s)
- Withdrawal of consent previously given

Definitions
Consent Form means an approved form of documentation that can be used to provide evidence of the outcome of the consent process, that is, agreement to or refusal of a treatment/procedure.

Consent process means a discussion or series of discussions and interactions between the most responsible health practitioner and patient or his/her alternate decision-maker including the provision of relevant information, verification of understanding, the decision-making and document of the consent process and outcome.

Informed consent means informed agreement of a patient or alternate decision-maker (if applicable) prior to the patient undergoing a treatment/procedure after being provided with the relevant information about the treatment/procedure(s), its risks and alternatives and the consequences of refusal.

Express consent means direct, explicit agreement to undergo a treatment/procedure(s) given either verbally or in writing.

Implied consent means consent inferred from the patient’s or alternate decision-maker’s (if applicable) actions and surrounding circumstances.

Most responsible health practitioner means the health practitioner who has responsibility and accountability for the specific treatment/procedure(s) provided to a patient and who is authorized by Covenant Health to perform the duties required to fulfill the delivery of such a treatment/procedure(s) within the scope of his/her practice.

Related Documents
Covenant Health Corporate Policy & Procedure on Consent to Treatment / Procedure(s) VII-B-50 http://www.compassionnet.ca/Page433.aspx

Covenant Health Corporate Policy & Procedure, Consent to Treatment – Minors/Mature Minors - VII-B-70

Covenant Health Corporate Policy & procedure, General Manual on Photography; Medical and Educational V-B-5 (consent attached)


Provincial transfusion Medicine resource website http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/3318.asp

http://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-09741.pdf (consent for treatment)

Revisions
October 2013
October 2015
Signing

Original Signed

GAIL CAMERON
SENIOR DIRECTOR OPERATIONS
MATERNAL, NEONATAL & CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS
COVENANT HEALTH
GREY NUNS & MISERCORDIA HOSPITALS

DATE

DR. PAUL BYRNE
MEDICAL DIRECTOR
NEONATAL PROGRAM
COVENANT HEALTH
GREY NUNS HOSPITAL

DATE

Original Signed

DR. SHARIF SHAIK
MEDICAL DIRECTOR
NEONATAL PROGRAM
COVENANT HEALTH
MISERICORDIA HOSPITAL

DATE