



A Picture of Health

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B.C.'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH



New Consent Regulations for Care Facility Admission

In British Columbia, consent for health care is governed by the *Health Care (Consent) and Care Facility (Admission) Act* (the Act). The Act outlines the rights of patients, the required elements for consent, when consent for health care is required, and the process for determining consent if a patient is deemed to be incapable of giving or refusing consent.

The Act is divided into three parts;

1. Definitions and Provisions
2. Health Care Consent
3. Admission to Care Facility Consent

Parts one and two of the Act were implemented in 2000 after it was originally passed in 1993. Part three is the latest to be implemented and covers the process of consent for admission of an adult into a care facility. Prior to the implementation of part three in November, there was nothing in existing legislation setting out rules of consent specific for care facility admission.

Under the newly established part three of the Act, consent will be provided by the adult to be admitted unless they have been determined to be incapable of giving or refusing consent. In that case, an assessment must be conducted by a prescribed health care provider (physician, registered nurse, registered psychiatric nurse, nurse practitioner, psychologist, occupational therapist or social worker). By implementing these changes, there is a recognition of the importance of an individual's rights and autonomy.

To assist in understanding how these changes work and how part three will be applied, the Ministry of Health has prepared a [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Additional resources also available include guidelines and supporting documentation, as well as the portal to an online eLearning course to learn more about consent to care facility admission in the province.