

Consent to gender affirming medical treatment - update to Consent to Medical and Healthcare Manual

Summary This Information Bulletin is to advise that the Consent to Medical and Healthcare Treatment Manual includes a new section (8.12) in Section 8 - Minors entitled 'Consent requirements for gender affirming medical treatment. The new section provides specific guidance on the consent requirements for young people under the age of 18 (minors) to access GAMT in the NSW Statewide Specialist Trans and Gender Diverse Health Service.

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Distributed to Ministry of Health, Public Health System, Divisions of General Practice, NSW Ambulance Service

Audience All Staff of NSW Health

New Edition - Consent to Medical and Healthcare Treatment Manual

PURPOSE

To advise the NSW Health system of an update to the Consent to Medical and Healthcare Treatment Manual (**Consent Manual**), which includes a new section (**8.12**) in Section 8 – Minors entitled '**Consent requirements for gender affirming medical treatments**'.

The new section provides specific guidance on the consent requirements for young people under the age of 18 (**minors**) to access gender affirming medical treatment (**GAMT**) in the NSW Statewide Specialist Trans and Gender Diverse Health Service (the 'TGD Health Service').

These consent requirements are distinct from and additional to the general consent requirements for minors as set out in section 8 of the current edition of the Consent Manual.

Other minor editorial changes have been made to the Consent Manual to reflect updated policy and legislative references.

KEY INFORMATION

Updated Consent Manual

An electronic version of the updated Consent Manual can be found on the NSW Health website - [Consent to Medical and Healthcare Treatment Manual - Policy and procedure manuals \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/consent-to-medical-and-healthcare-treatment-manual-policy-and-procedure-manuals)

The Consent Manual was first published on 26 March 2020. It provides operational guidance and procedures to support compliance with the NSW law on obtaining consent to medical and healthcare treatment. Its intention is to cover all legal requirements for consent across the NSW Health system.

The NSW Ministry of Health has recently published an update to the Consent Manual which includes a new section (8.12) providing specific guidance on the consent requirements for young people under the age of 18 to access GAMT in the Statewide TGD Health Services, entitled '**Consent requirements for gender affirming medical treatments**'. This is distinct from and additional to the usual consent requirements for a minor.

Other updates include:

- Minor associated amendments to section **8.3 (What is a Mature Minor and when can they consent to non-emergency treatment?)**, referring to the specific requirements for GAMT.
- Insertion of gender affirming medical treatment into section **11.3 (Consent table – quick finder for Minors)**

- Several minor amendments to reflect updated policy references, legislation and resources.