

Carer's Authority to Provide Consent

Policy

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Contact details	Operational Policy tfhc.policy@nt.gov.au		
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Version	Date	Author	Changes made
1.0	30/12/2019	Operational Policy	First version
2.0	9/09/2021	Operational Policy	Carers may provide consent for standard childhood immunisations and vaccination against infectious diseases including COVID-19

Acronyms	Full form
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of Territory Families, Housing and Communities
Department	Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities
Practitioner	Child Protection Practitioner or Case Manager

1. Policy Purpose

To ensure all Carers of a child in the care of the CEO are supported to provide routine consents.

2. Policy Statement

Practitioners must ensure that children in the care of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) have the opportunity to participate in activities, interact socially with other children and engage with their family and community. The Department partners closely with Carers to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children in care.

Practitioners should always encourage routine decision making by Carers

The Department's consent is not required for most day-to-day decisions. Carers are permitted and encouraged to provide consent for a child to participate in routine activities or receive a routine service, including medical and dental care. Carers should contact the child's Practitioner if they are unsure about providing consent in any particular circumstance.

Practitioners must ensure that the Carer understands their responsibilities and the types of activities for which they have the authority to provide consent. It is important that children and Carers receive a consistent experience from the Department.

The Department's consent is required in some circumstances where the decision relates to high risk activities, there are family and cultural considerations or where the CEO is required to make the decision due to potential long term consequences. This includes, but is not limited to, high risk activities and complex health care.

The Department's approval is also required for surgical procedures involving a general anaesthetic and some other medical decisions (e.g. palliative care) and treatments that may have significant side effects (e.g. psychotropic medication).

Urgent situations may arise where it is essential that immediate consent is provided for a child to receive medical or dental care (including out of hours or weekends). If the treatment requires the Department's consent, and the Practitioner is not immediately available, health practitioners and Carers are to be advised to contact the Central Intake Team.

The Department's consent is always required for any travel by air, interstate travel and overseas travel. Practitioners must ensure that a request for a consent to be provided is responded to in a timely manner to ensure that the child does not miss an opportunity to participate. Carers are to be advised of the expected time frame for consent to be provided if this is more than 24 hours.

2.1. Related Documents

[Procedure: Carer's Authority to Provide Consents](#)

[Guideline: Decision making for Carers](#)