PROCESS FOR CONSENT FOR INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY PROCEDURES OF NON-EMERGENCY PATIENTS

DESCRIPTION
An audit of the reliability and basic validity of the consent procedure in interventional radiology of the non-emergency patients

Standard
All patients undergoing interventional radiology procedures should have access to appropriate information regarding the potential benefits and risks of the procedure including alternative treatments. The patients should also have access to an appropriately trained healthcare professional, who has knowledge of the procedure and can explain and answer any concern. This should be evidenced by a signed consent form.

SOURCE OF STANDARD
National legislation / European guidelines

IMPORTANCE
Patients must have a clear understanding of the risks and potential benefits of the procedure, as well as other options for treatment so that they can make a clear informed decision on whether they wish to proceed with the intervention.

TARGET
There should be either a copy of the signed consent form in the records of every patient or a clear documentation of an oral explanation of the procedure to a patient in the health care records.*

INDICATOR
% of patients who have undergone an interventional radiology procedure who have a signed consent form in their health records or have a clear documentation of an oral consent for the proposed procedure in their health records

DATA TO BE COLLECTED
Consent forms in the health care records of patients who have undergone an interventional radiology procedure will be evaluated.

SAMPLE
50 consecutive patients undergoing IR procedures - retrospective survey

METHOD
Review patients’ healthcare records for appropriately completed consent form

SUGGESTED ACTIONS IF TARGET NOT MET
- Analysis of those cases where compliance is not met to inform further action
- Review consent policy
- Ensure appropriate induction and update training for all healthcare professionals involved in the consent process
- Definition of clear responsibility between the persons performing the informed consent procedure is highly recommendable
- If needed, designated education of special nurses to perform the consent procedure is recommended and the use of their expertise is appreciated
• The role of the interventional radiologists and the specialist nurses in the informed consent process should be openly defined. The content of each informed consent forms / checking lists for the oral explanation of the corresponding interventional radiology procedure should be evaluated and updated if needed.

REFERENCES


* The informed consent should be obtained at least 24 hours prior the procedure in order to give the patient enough time to make his final decision. The consent form / checking list for an oral consent should have a proper explanation of the potential risks and benefits of the proposed procedure.