

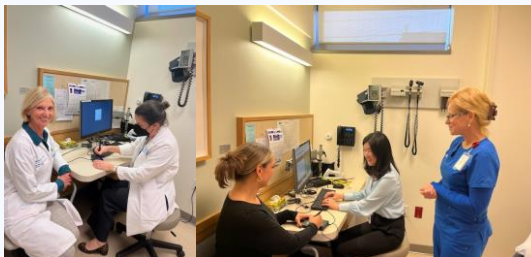
E-consent demonstrates better inclusion of critical elements in the informed consent when compared to paper consents



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Significance & Background

The authors questioned whether utilizing e-consents would demonstrate better adherence to completion of the critical elements of the informed consent form when compared to paper consents.



Interventions

- A retrospective chart review was completed for the first 6 months (1/31/23 - 6/30/23) that e-consents (86 consents) were utilized. The comparison group included the previous 6 months (7/1/22 - 1/30/23) when paper consents were utilized (64 consents).
- Consents were reviewed for the following critical elements:
 - Frequency of Chemotherapy
 - Number of Cycles of Chemotherapy
 - Goal of Treatment
 - Goals of Care
 - Patient Signature
 - Provider Signature
 - Accuracy of Chemotherapy Delivered compared to Chemotherapy listed on the consent form

Results

| Critical Element Present (% of the time) | Paper Consent | E-Consent |
|--|---------------|-------------|
| Frequency of chemotherapy | 91% (58/64) | 98% (84/86) |
| Number of cycles of chemotherapy | 59% (38/64) | 35% (30/86) |
| Goals of Treatment | 90% (58/64) | 98% (84/86) |
| Goals of Care | 4% (39/64) | 45% (39/86) |
| Patient Signature | 98% (63/64) | 98% (84/86) |
| Provider Signature | 100% (64/64) | 98% (85/86) |

Evaluation

- Introduction of e-consent forms provided a convenient and streamlined approach for both nurses and providers in ambulatory clinic.
- E-consent compliance for critical elements was similar or better in all areas except number of cycles of chemotherapy.
- Correct chemotherapy drugs were delivered as outlined in the consent form 100% (150 charts) of the time.

Discussion

PROS For e-Consents:

- No delay in clinical care
- Better HIPAA practices
- Consent automatically uploaded in Mychart, no scanning delay

CONS:

- Number of Chemotherapy Cycles documented was less

FUTURE:

- EPIC Enhancements – make all critical element fields a hard stop which would ensure 100% compliance

References

Chimonas, S., Lipitz-Synderman, A. et. al. (2023). Electronic consent in clinical care: an international scoping review. *BMJ Health Care Inform.* 30(1), 1-6. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjhci-2022-100726>.