



**Immunization is voluntary.** Providing information is important in ensuring that each individual being immunized has had the opportunity to give an informed consent.

Wherever possible, the health care provider administering the immunization will obtain consent at the time the immunization is being given. This consent can be verbal.

## A. STEPS TO OBTAINING CONSENT

1. Assess the capacity of the individual to provide informed consent
  - Was the discussion understood?
  - Is there a language barrier?
    - Do you need an interpreter? (follow local process)
  - If the individual does not have capacity, refer to section B.
2. Determine the authority for the client or representative to provide informed consent.
3. Provide standard information:
  - The applicable [vaccine information sheet](#) (this will assist with the informed consent process).
  - Benefits of vaccination
  - Risks of not being vaccinated
  - Common side effects of vaccines
  - Possible serious, severe or unusual adverse events and their frequency
  - Contraindications
4. Allow the opportunity to ask questions and confirm understanding

## B. SUBSTITUTE DECISION MAKER - Where Consent Must be Obtained from Someone Other than Individual Being Immunized

- If the individual does not have the capacity to provide consent, the Substitute Decision Maker (SDM) may provide consent.
  - NOTE: Ensure the correct Substitute Decision Maker is obtained → Immunizations are not included in the “day to day treatment” in the regulations of the [Healthcare Directives and Substitute Healthcare Decision Makers Act Section 17](#), therefore consent must be obtained from the SDM and not the caregiver (if not the SDM).
- Consent can be obtained by someone other than the immunizer and that person is responsible to provide the information required for informed consent.
- There must be a written record of any consent obtained by another party so that the immunizer can verify that consent was obtained.
  - [SHA 0096 SHA Vaccine Consent Form](#)