University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine Protocol
Consent for Dental Care and Procedures

Description: To define the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine’s policy concerning patients’ right to consent to health care that preserves the autonomy and dignity of all patients.

Accountability: It is the policy of the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine to provide health care that preserves the autonomy and dignity of all patients. This requires that the dental and administrative staff recognize that health care is provided on the request of and for the benefit of the patient. Therefore, patients have the right to be informed about their care and treatment prior to consenting. The clinician or independent allied health professional performing the procedure is legally responsible to provide the patient with the information necessary to make a decision about whether to give consent. A conscious and mentally competent adult patient has the right to consent to or refuse any medical, surgical or dental procedure.

Competent Adult: A person who is 18 years or older and has the mental capacity to make an informed decision about health care treatment. This capacity consists of:

1. Patients factual understanding of illness and prognosis; understands risks and benefits of treatment options including non-treatment;
2. Patient’s appreciation of the personal relevance of the diagnosis;
3. Patient’s ability to express a choice or preference; and
4. Demonstrate the ability to use information logically to reach decision.

In the event that a patient doesn’t meet all the requirements of a Competent Adult the patient must have a designated legal guardian, power of attorney, and/or medical proxy. All appropriate documentation must be obtained prior to appointing the patient and must be brought to the initial visit in order to begin treatment at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine. If the designated legal guardian, power of attorney, and/or medical proxy are not able to be present at the patient’s initial appointment the “General Information and Consent to Treat” and “HIPAA/Privacy Notice” can be provided prior to the appointment at the request of the patient’s caregiver. The “General Information and Consent to Treat” and “HIPAA/Privacy Notice” must be provided to our staff either prior to or at the first appointment along with all of the required supporting “legal guardian, power of attorney, and/or medical proxy” documents.

Clinical Options to Receive Dental Care:

1. Traditional Clinic Setting – patient is compliant and able to receive dental care in traditional dental setting.
2. IV Sedation (conscious sedation) – patient is semi-compliant but would benefit from receiving intravenous sedation medication in order to determine dental needs and provide dental care.
3. University of Colorado Hospital (General Anesthesia) – patient is non-compliant and must be treated in a hospital setting with general anesthesia.
Making an appointment for an adult with healthcare needs at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine:

1. Medical Proxy/Legal Guardianship documents will be required for patients that do not meet the clinical definition of “Competent Adult” and must be obtained prior to making an appointment for an evaluation.
2. Once the appropriate documentation has been obtained a screening appointment for evaluation and assessment can be made.
   a. When making the appointment please contact Delores Cano at 303.724.6943 or a front desk receptionist at 303.724.6941.
   b. When making the appointment for an adult with healthcare needs please indicate that to our phone representatives so the patient can be properly appointed.
   c. Please indicate the agency where the patient is receiving assistance (Rocky Mountain Human Services, Developmental Pathways, etc.) so we can properly maintain that information and provide follow-up information after the patient has been treated.
   d. The GPR program will allocate one hour to evaluate the patient to determine the patient’s capacity to receive dental treatment in one of our various dental care settings.

What to expect at the initial appointment here at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine:

1. Upon arrival to the initial appointment the caregiver will fill out the health history form that we can enter the information into the patients “Electronic Health Record” (EHR).
2. We require the “General Information and Consent to Treat”, “HIPAA/Privacy Notice”, and “Legal Guardianship/Medical Proxy/POA” documents at the time of the initial screening appointment.
3. During the screening appointment our dental resident will be assessing the patient to determine the patient’s capacity to receive dental treatment here at the School of Dental Medicine with traditional options and/or under IV Sedation or if the patient will require more advanced sedation options that will be best served at the University of Colorado Hospital.
   a. If it is decided that the patient will be better served at the University of Colorado Hospital they will be placed on our waiting list to be treated at a later date. Currently the estimated wait time for a hospital dental visit is approximately 12-14 months.
   b. In the event that our clinic director believes there is eminent and immediate health concerns our clinic may be able to expedite a hospital dental appointment to the last Friday of the month if available (this accommodation and availability is subject to change at any time).
4. After the assessment and if it is determined that we will be able to treat the patient here at the School Dental Medicine under traditional dental methods we will reappoint the patient accordingly to begin their dental care.

Thank you for choosing the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine to assist in providing dental care to your clients. If you have any further questions or concern, please contact us at 303.724.6943 or 303.724.6941.