

ETHICS AND LEGAL ISSUES

Module 4 : Ethics and Legal Issues

	Clinical competency	Professional skills and attitudes	Training support	Evidence/assessment
CONSENT:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Understand the principles and legal issues surrounding informed consent ■ Understand specific legal issues about consent in under 16-year-olds and vulnerable adults ■ Be aware of diversity ■ Be aware of the implications of the legal status of the unborn child ■ Understand appropriateness of consent to postmortem examination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use written material correctly and accurately ■ Gain valid consent from patients and know when to ask for a second opinion ■ Discuss clinical risk ■ Know when to involve social services and police and how to do so 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Demonstrate the ability to give appropriate information in a manner that patients and relatives understand and assess their comprehension ■ Show an awareness of the patient's needs as an individual ■ Respect diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ StratOG.net: The Obstetrician and Gynaecologist as a Professional. Ethical and legal issues e-tutorial ■ Informed consent and minimum standards of communication ■ DH guidance on consent (www.dh.gov.uk) ■ Obtaining Valid Consent (RCOG, October 2004) ■ RCOG Consent Advice Series (www.rcog.org.uk) ■ RCOG Ethics Guideline No. 1: Law and Ethics in Relation to Court-authorized Obstetric Intervention (RCOG, October 2006) ■ The Medical Council of Hong Kong (www.mchk.org.hk) 	
CONFIDENTIALITY:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Be aware of relevant strategies to ensure confidentiality ■ Be aware when confidentiality might be broken ■ Understand the principles of data protection including electronic and administrative systems ■ Understand the role of interpreters and patient advocates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use and share information appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Respect the right to confidentiality ■ Be aware of the requirements of children, adolescents and patients with special needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Confidentiality and Disclosure of Health Information: RCOG Ethics Committee comments on BMA document October 2000 ■ Caldicott Committee Report on the Review of Patient Identifiable Information (DH; 1997) ■ GMC Good Medical Practice ■ StratOG.net: The Obstetrician and Gynaecologist as a Professional. Ethical and legal issues e-tutorial 	

Knowledge criteria	Clinical competency	Professional skills and attitudes	Training support	Evidence/assessment
LEGAL ISSUES RELATING TO MEDICAL CERTIFICATION:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Know the legal responsibilities of completing maternity, birth, sickness and death certificates ■ Understand abortion law in HK and be aware of exemptions for those who will not participate in abortion services for moral or religious reasons ■ Know the types of deaths that should be referred to the Coroner/Procurator Fiscal ■ Understand the principles of advance directives and living wills ■ Be aware of the indications for section under the Mental Health Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Complete relevant medical certification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Have the ability to know how to obtain suitable evidence and whom to consult ■ Act with compassion at all times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Local courses ■ Registration of Stillbirths and Certification for Pregnancy Loss before 24 Weeks of Gestation (RCOG, January 2005) ■ StratOG.net: The Obstetrician and Gynaecologist as a Professional. Ethical and legal issues e-tutorial 	

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Fill in as a record of experience.

Skills	Competence level						
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basic training	<input type="checkbox"/>	Intermediate training	<input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced training	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Observation		Direct supervision		Independent practice		
	Date	Signature of trainer	Date	Signature of trainer	Date	Signature of trainer	
Consent:							
Obtain valid consent*							
Ability to discuss clinical risk							
Consent for neonatal postmortem examination							

*Trainees may only obtain consent for those procedures with which they are familiar and performing either under direct supervision of independently.

While trainees may observe obtaining consent for a postmortem examination after a maternal death or a death of a gynaecological patient, there is no expectation that they will start to obtain consent until after completion of core training.

Authorisation of signatures (to be completed by the clinical trainers)

Name of clinical trainer (please print)	Signature of clinical trainer

COMPLETION OF MODULE 4

I confirm that all components of the module have been successfully completed:

Date	Name of educational supervisor	Signature of educational supervisor