



CPME/AD/Brd/110306/030/EN

At its Board meeting in Brussels on 11 March 2006, the CPME adopted the following policy: **Rights of young people to information and informed consent: CPME recommendation** (CPME 2006/030 Final EN/FR)

The principles of communication and informed consent are central to the doctor-patient relationship. However, these principles may vary in relation to obtaining consent from young people, since, at different ages and under different jurisdictions, others may be empowered to make treatment decisions on behalf of the young patient.

This situation in no way removes the right of a young person to be treated as an individual, and to be involved as far as possible in decisions about his or her care. While a young person may lack full legal capacity to make some treatment decisions, he or she may have developed significant experience relating to his or her illness, and may have a view about health care that deserves to be heard and taken into account. A young person should therefore be regarded as having some capacity in relation to decisions about his or her care.

Doctors should take care to provide information in a way that is relevant to the young person's level of understanding and maturity, while also recognising that the same information should be provided to those empowered to give or refuse consent to treatment.

The aim of this approach is to provide the young person with sensitive and careful guidance, and support through his or her illness. Recognition of both the young person's right to be involved in healthcare decisions, as well as the role of parents or guardians is essential.