

Hernández-Marrero, P., & Pereira, S. M. (2023). How to enhance the informed consent process in persons unable to consent? Experiences from different contexts and settings. *Palliative Medicine*, 37(1), 16-16.

Background: Informed consent is the most scrutinized and controversial aspect of clinical research ethics. In palliative and end-of-life care, assessing decision-making capacity may be challenging. Patients, particularly those with cognitive impairment, deserve special attention when developing, implementing, and evaluating the informed consent process. Respecting patients' autonomy in research includes obtaining informed consent; facilitating and supporting patients' choices about research options; allowing patients to refuse participating in research; disclosing comprehensive and truthful information; and maintaining privacy and confidentiality. An autonomous decision requires that participants/patients have the capacity to provide informed consent. Aim: To explore how to enhance the informed consent process in persons unable to consent (e.g., persons with cognitive impairment, dementia, severe and persistent mental illness, and/or at the end-of-life) to increase equity and fair participant selection.