

Your right to self-determination

As a patient, you decide whether you want to accept an offered examination or treatment, or not. Your consent must be based on the information provided to you.

You can always withdraw your consent to the treatment.

In most cases it is assumed that you have consented to the treatment, if no rejection has been received from you. In case of a longer treatment period you may withdraw your consent anytime you wish.

Patients below the age of 18

The right to self-determination and providing consent applies from the age of 15. Therefore, should you be between the age of 15 and 17, you are entitled to give your own consent to treatment. Since you – being a minor – are still under parental custody, those holding the custody must also be informed about and involved in your decision.

Should you disagree, however, then it is you who has the final say in the matter. If the healthcare professional determines that you are not mature enough to grasp the implications, then it will be the one holding the parental responsibility who will be making the decision.

If you are below the age of 15, those with the parental custody will be providing the consent on your behalf.

Permanently incapacitated

For a patient who is permanently incapable of providing informed consent, it is the closest relatives or guardian who will provide the consent.

Emergency treatment

If you are in a life threatening situation and in need of immediate treatment, but you are unable to give your consent, then you will be treated without consent. For example, in case you are unconscious.

Self-determination in special cases

The Health Act contains a certain set of rules, stating that you – as a patient – also maintain the right to decide in situations where death may occur.

This applies in the following situations:

- Hunger strike
- Refusal to transfer blood
- Treatment to terminally ill