

WELLINGTON COLLEGE PHYSIOTHERAPY STUDENT CONSENT AND PRIVACY INFORMATION SHEET

Welcome to the Wellington College Physiotherapy Service. As the legislation is complex with respect to consent and privacy, and the parents' right to access medical information for their children, we have provided this additional information on our approach to student consent, privacy, and the collection of fees.

- Students can either book their own appointments, or appointments can be made in conjunction with whānau. Bookings can be made online (<https://nzappts.gensolve.com/wsmmed>) or via phone (04 9097609). No referral is needed. Fees apply to all appointments. It is important that if students are booking their own appointment that they are prepared to either pay for their appointment themselves, or consult with the person (usually a parent or guardian) who will be paying the bill, to ensure they are happy to do so.
- The physiotherapist may encourage the student to discuss their appointment with their parent or guardian.
- The physiotherapist may also ask for the students consent to discuss their appointment with their parent or guardian.
- However it must be appreciated that:
- Students aged 16 or over have the same rights as adults to consent to treatment.
- Students under 16 who have the understanding, capacity, capability, and maturity to form a balanced judgement about the proposed treatment can consent to their own treatment, and parental consent is not required. However, as a fee will be required for the appointment, it is the students responsibility to have checked with the person paying the bill and provide their details, and to advise the physiotherapist over what (if any) information they consent to being released to their parent or guardian. It is expected this will apply in the majority of cases.
- Where students, who are under 16, do not have the capacity to understand the treatment that is being proposed, and therefore their capacity to give informed consent is unclear, the physiotherapist will consult with parents, guardian, or whānau and seek their consent before proceeding with treatment. The student's input and consent will still be sought alongside parental consent.
- Students of all ages have a right to privacy when accessing medical services. We will seek the student's consent to discuss their treatment plan with parents, guardian, whānau, and/or coaches and teachers as appropriate.
- In some cases students may share information with their physiotherapist that they do not wish to be disclosed to anyone else. In these circumstances the physiotherapist will respect the student's right to privacy.
- However, there may also be occasions when the student may not consent to the physiotherapist discussing a musculoskeletal injury with their parents, guardian, whānau, and/or coaches and teachers. The students ability to understand the consequences and risks of not consenting to the physiotherapist sharing the information, and the clinical reasoning and experience of the physiotherapist and level of risk of not following professional advice, will be balanced against the students right to privacy. For example the consequences of playing sport following a mildly sprained finger or ankle, will be vastly removed from that following a concussion.

All services will be delivered in line with the Health and Disability Code of Rights which can be found here and is also on the wall of the clinic. It is the physiotherapist's responsibility to ensure students are fully informed and understand their rights. <https://www.hdc.org.nz/your-rights/the-code-and-your-rights/>

We welcome questions from parents, guardian, whānau, coaches and teachers – please contact Kirsty Boniface, Practice Manager at Wellington Sports Med / kirsty@wellingtonsportsmed.co.nz / 04 909 7609 if you wish to discuss any of the points raised in this information sheet.

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