Overview

Informed consent law has **failed**.

But robust evidence shows **patient decision aids** (PDAs) significantly enhance patient knowledge and understanding.

**Certification** encourages PDA use by endorsing PDAs that meet consensus based quality standards.

Informed Consent Failed

Only 5 in 100 understand their cancer prognosis.

Only 3 in 100 understand their percutaneous coronary intervention.

Patient Decision Aids

PDAs are evidence-based **educational tools** that facilitate shared decision making.

PDAs include: written materials, decision grids, videos, and web-based or other electronic interactive programs.

PDAs Empower Patients

Over 130 RCTs show PDAs significantly enhance patient knowledge of treatment options, risks, and benefits.

Cochrane and other meta-reviews confirm these benefits.

Move PDAs from Lab to Clinic

The research is done. But **implementation** is sparse and incomplete. “The promise . . . remains elusive.”

By assuring the quality of PDAs, **certification** improves and incentivizes shared decision making.

PDA Certification Is Coming

In April 2016, **Washington State** launched a PDA certification process (starting with maternity health).

Washington further **incentivizes** clinicians by linking PDA use both to payment and to liability protection.

Washington State’s leadership provides a **model** that other jurisdictions can adopt.

USGOV is moving to activate the (still dormant) certification mandate in the 2010 Affordable Care Act.

References


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