PURPOSE To ensure patients are informed regarding invasive medical procedures and can thereby fully participate in choices about their healthcare.

POLICY All patients undergoing an invasive procedure at Student Health Services will have the specifics of the procedure reviewed with them, including the site of the procedure, and will sign an Informed Consent document (AD-411-1) before the procedure is performed.

PROCEDURES
1. The informed consent discussion should include the following elements and be explained in terms the patient can understand:
   1.1 The nature of the decision and procedure
   1.2 The site of the procedure (surgical site verification)
   1.3 Reasonable alternatives to the proposed intervention
   1.4 The relevant risks, benefits, and uncertainties related to each alternative, including any anesthesia being used
   1.5 Assessment of patient understanding
   1.6 The acceptance of the intervention by the patient

2. For the patient’s consent to be valid, he/she must be considered competent to make decision at hand, and the consent must be voluntary.

3. Generally, the physician or nurse practitioner should assess the patient’s ability to understand his or her situation, understand the risks associated with the decision at hand, and communicate a decision based on that understanding.

4. The informed consent process should be seen as an invitation to the patient to participate in his or her health care decisions and not merely signing a form.

5. The physician or nurse practitioner is generally obligated to share his or her reasoning process with the patient concerning the elements of informed consent.

6. If the patient is determined to be incapacitated or incompetent to make health care decisions, the physician or nurse practitioner is expected to act in the best interest of the patient until an authorized representative of the patient is found or appointed.