

Sterilization consent forms signatures during the COVID-19 pandemic

Frequently asked questions

The sterilization consent form was reviewed with the client during a telehealth visit. Is the client's verbal consent acceptable? Can the client sign the form later and backdate the signature?

No. Neither verbal consent nor a backdated signature are acceptable for the client's signature on the sterilization consent form.

The only acceptable alternative to in-person signature of the sterilization consent form is use of an electronic signature. RCW 19.360 authorizes HCA to accept electronic signatures with the same force and effect as that of a signature affixed by hand. Refer to [Electronic signature guidance during the COVID-19 outbreak](#) for information on what constitutes an electronic signature.

Interpreter services are only being provided by phone during the pandemic. How does the interpreter sign the consent form?

As stated above, the only acceptable alternative to in-person signature of the sterilization consent form is use of an electronic signature. Refer to [Electronic signature guidance during the COVID-19 outbreak](#) for information on what constitutes an electronic signature.

A client's sterilization procedure was rescheduled due to COVID-19. The procedure will now take place 195 days after the sterilization consent form was signed. Can the consent form expiration date be extended?

No, the consent form expires after 180 days. Once the sterilization consent form is signed, the client must undergo the procedure no sooner than the 31st day and no later than the 180th day after the signature date. The consent form dates cannot be changed or edited. A new consent form must be completed and signed, and the 30-day waiting period will start over, with the new signature date as day one.