



Ask Me First – Patient Privacy Protection Act

The Wisconsin Nurses Association supports SB 635 and AB 694 the Patient Privacy Protection Act which is legislation that requires hospitals to have a policy requiring written and verbal informed consent before a medical student may perform a pelvic examination on a patient who is under general anesthesia or otherwise unconscious. WNA supports the concept and content of this “Ask Me First” legislation.

WNA supports this legislation for the following reasons:

- SB 635 and AB 694 requires hospitals to have and enforce a policy requiring written and verbal informed consent to be obtained before a medical student may perform a pelvic examination on a patient who is under general anesthesia or otherwise unconscious.
- SB 635 and 694 requires every hospital to inform medical students and the physicians supervising these individuals of the informed consent policy and shall take appropriate action to discipline any individual who violates the policy or instructs a medical student to conduct an examination in violation of the policy.
- This legislation supports best practices in health care delivery by demonstrating values related to “do no harm” through transparency of care, joint patient and health care provider care decisions, full disclosure of procedures, and evidence of both verbal and written permission.
- It is important that just like nursing students, medical students should receive education and experience that include demonstration of a culture that expects moral and ethical care practices that support patient rights.
- There should not be an issue in passing this important “Ask Me First” legislation. If hospital policies have recently been adopted then this legislation provides a guarantee that these practices will be upheld.
- This legislation is a model for patient-centered team based care which calls for patient engagement in all of their health care decisions.
- WNA wants to thank Senator André Jacque and Representative Janel Brandtjen for their sponsorship of SB 635 and AB 694.

The Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA) is the premier organization representing the interests of Wisconsin’s 90,000 registered nurses. WNA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting a safe and ethical work environment, bolstering the health and wellness of nurses, and advocating on health care issues that affect nurses and the public. WNA is at the forefront of improving the quality of health care for all.