

Patient rights – The Dutch law regarding Medical Treatment Agreements (WGBO)

When being treated by a medical expert, you place your trust in their hands. As a result of doing so you might feel dependent on your GP or specialist. That is why it is important to be aware of your rights as a patient.

In 1995, the relationship between specialist and patient was defined in the Dutch Law of Medical Treatment Agreements (WGBO) . TinyEYE Europe adheres to these legal guidelines.

Below is a summary of the rights and obligations that exist between the patient and the specialist:

- You have the right to receive information. The specialist must communicate information in a comprehensible way. You must receive information about your medical condition, the nature of the recommended therapy, alternative therapy options, consequences and risks and potential medication and side effects.
- You can only undergo therapy when you have given your consent. When you are not capable of giving consent yourself, in dire medical situations for example, your therapist may provide treatment without any explicit consent from you.
- You always have the right to read your medical files. The specialist is obliged to keep your medical files up to date. Only the specialist and you, as the patient, are allowed access to the information concerning you. You can also request a copy of your medical file.
- As a patient, you have the right to privacy. Everything you share with your specialist is confidential, as well as the therapy sessions.
- When you are not capable of deciding on any therapy yourself, you can appoint a representative. You can do this in an official way through a district judge, or you can compose a statement yourself. In case of no written consent, your specialist will ask a person in close proximity to yourself (eg. a family member or a partner) to take on the role of representative.
- As a patient, you must inform your specialist truthfully and completely. You must also follow up your specialist's advice as much as possible, within reason.
- The specialist is not obliged to follow up on a patient's requests, but has the right to make his own decisions. Expertise and professional opinion play a large role in this. When a specialist judges that therapy is not needed, he is not obliged to act in accord with the patient's wishes.
- If you are not satisfied with the provided healthcare, you can file a complaint. For more information on filing a complaint please go to the Healthcare Information and Complaint Office or see the information package that you received from us.

For a more extensive explanation of the Dutch Law of Medical Treatment Agreements (WGBO) please visit the Dutch Patient Consumer Federation site

https://www.patientenfederatie.nl/Documenten/producten/informatiekaart/wgbo_54-1.pdf