

# INFORMED REFUSAL

## To Do List

1. Explain the illness and treatment plan and the reason for the plan in detail, emphasizing the seriousness of the same.
2. Explain the consequences or implications of the patient's choice. Be specific, be frank, or blunt if necessary. This conversation is akin to informed consent, so make sure you obtain an **informed refusal**.
3. Your notes must thoroughly document these conversations.
4. In a significant case – the decision could be life threatening – involve family members. Be conscious of confidentiality requirements, but try to convince the patient to involve a significant other and document the same.
5. If the consequences are grave, you may consider sending a certified letter to the patient, return receipt requested, outlining your instructions and their decision as well as the implications of that decision.
6. A last resort is to refuse treatment. This is for your safety and that of the patient. Maybe another doctor will make a better connection with the patient and be able to convince them to follow up. (Often this drastic step will change the patient's mind.)