

# DISCUSSING RISK: DO YOU REALLY HAVE CONSENT?

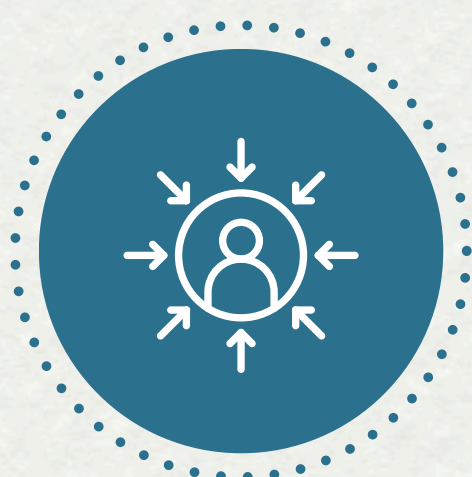


## WHEN TO GET CONSENT

Physiotherapists must ask for consent **after** they inform their clients about a proposed physiotherapy service, its expected benefits, and related risks. **Consent is not consent if it is not informed.**

## CLIENT-CENTERED

Physiotherapists must understand what matters to their clients so they can meaningfully discuss the risks of a proposed physiotherapy service.



## NOT ALL RISKS ARE CREATED EQUAL.

Some risks are universal due to their frequency or severity (for example a risk of death or permanent disability). These are Material Risks.

Other risks are viewed differently by different clients based on the client's values or life experiences. These are Special Risks.

## IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO ONLY DISCUSS MATERIAL RISKS

Consent discussions must include information that the physiotherapist knows or ought to know their client deems relevant to making a decision (special risks).



## THE CLIENT'S VIEW

The only way to know which special risks matter to the client is to spend time getting to know what matters to them. **It's the client's view of the risk that matters since they are the person who is at risk.**

## CLIENT RIGHTS

If a client is not willing to accept the risks related to a proposed physiotherapy service, they always have the right to decline the service or withdraw a previous consent.