

E.C.T. WORK-UP CHECK LIST

Legal Requirements and Informed Consent:

These requirements are not merely hospital policy, but, in most cases, reflect State law; they must be followed exactly.

Date Completed/  
Verified by Whom

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. **Voluntary Status.** 5326.75

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. **ECT Note:**

A progress note by the attending physician stating the reasons for ECT, that all reasonable treatment modalities have been carefully considered and ECT is definitely indicated and that ECT is the least drastic alternative for the patient (5326.7(a)).

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. **Informed Consent:**

The informed consent form detailing a reading and explanation of the indication, risks, benefits and procedure of ECT must be completed by the treating physician giving the oral explanation to the patient (5326.2). The treating physician must then enter a note in the progress note verifying this explanation has been given to the patient (5326.4). The informed consent specifies a maximum number of treatments for a period not to exceed 30 days (5326.7(d)), and is in compliance with the State Regulations Article 9, Sections 848 and 849, regarding excessive ECT Treatment and Review Requirements. (Convulsive Treatment shall be considered excessive if more than 15 treatments are given to a patient within a 30-day period, or a total of more than 30 treatments are given to a patient within a one-year period. If more than the above limits are indicated, prior approval must first be obtained from the review committee of the facility or county, whichever is appropriate.)

Date Completed/  
Verified by Whom

\_\_\_\_\_ 4.

**Patient Consent Form:**

At least 24 hours after the informed consent presentation, the patient must sign the ECT consent form. The witness must be other than the treating physician who presented and explained the form (5326.5). The consent form also contains an indication of wish to notify a responsible relative which must be similarly witnessed (5326.7(c)).

\_\_\_\_\_ 5.

**Independent Consultant Note:**

A progress note by a Board-certified or Board-eligible psychiatrist, other than the patient's attending or treating physician, is required. This note should not only indicate that ECT is indicated, but also verify that the patient has the capacity to give and has given written informed consent. The consulting physician must sign the review form (5326.7(b)).

\_\_\_\_\_ 6.

**Responsible Relative:**

If the patient wishes to notify a relative of his/her choosing, the Attending Physician must enter a progress note which indicates that the relative has been given a full explanation of indicators, risks, and benefits. If the patient names a relative who is unavailable, attempts made to locate and/or reason the relative is unavailable must be entered into the record (5326.7).