1. Which consent form is used? How is it filled out?

Use the new AHS Consent to Specific Treatment/Procedure form (#09741). An example of how to fill it out for consent from a parent is available at:
http://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/Files/clp-form-sample_consent_for_minors_with_parent_who_is_a_guardian.pdf

2. How should consent be obtained for a minor whose parents are separated but have joint custody? What documentation do we need to attach to the health record?

Both parents with joint custody should be involved in the consent process and have decision-making authority. However, consent from one parent is sufficient unless we are aware that the other parent disagrees.

If there is a dispute between the parents, one consenting and one refusing, the parent(s) may apply to the Court for an Order authorizing treatment and AHS will follow the Court Order. If we (AHS) feel that the medical, surgical or other remedial treatment is essential and necessary for the health and well being of the child, Child and Family Services should be contacted and the Director can make an application to the Court for an Order authorizing treatment.

There is no obligation in the AHS consent policy to put documentation of joint custody on the health record, but it is best practice to do so.

3. Recently a minor gave birth at our hospital and the father is a minor as well. We think one parent could be assessed as a mature minor. We know that mature minors can make decisions for themselves but can they also make health care decisions for their newborns?

The Family Law Act does not differentiate between parents who are minors and those who are adults. The minor/mature minor analysis regarding the parent is irrelevant. Rather, decision-making authority for health matters for the newborn is governed by guardianship, and guardianship is determined according to section 20 of the Family Law Act (Appendix to the Consent policy and to the Minors/Mature Minors procedure).