

CONSENT FORM 1

PATIENT AGREEMENT TO INVESTIGATION OR TREATMENT

When to use this form:

This form is for people who have the capacity to consent to treatment and therefore is largely unaffected by the MCA.

When not to use this form:

If the patient is 18 or over and lacks the capacity to give consent, you should use consent form 4. See additional guidance, point 4, page 6 for further details.

PA	FIENT DETAILS
Patient surname/family name:	
Patient first name/s:	2.00
Date of birth:	
Responsible health professional:	
Job title:	
NHS Number:	
Unit Number:	
Gender:	
Special requirements (e.g. language or other communication method):	

NOTE: NO SECTION TO BE LEFT BLANK! TICK OR ENTER 'N/A' USE BESPOKE CHECKLIST IF APPROPRIATE

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		P10	Sgnature	Signature
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Patient identifier/label

Statement of Patient

Please read this form carefully. If your treatment has been planned in advance, you should already have your own copy of page 2 which describes the benefits and risks of the proposed treatment. If not, you will be offered a copy now. If you have any further questions, do ask - we are here to help you. You have the right to change your mind at any time, including after you have signed this form.

- I agree to the procedure or course of treatment described on this form.
- I understand that you cannot give me a guarantee that a particular person will perform the procedure. The person will, however, have appropriate experience.
- I understand that I will have the opportunity to discuss the details of anaesthesia with an anaesthetist before the procedure, unless the urgency of my situation prevents this. (this only applies to patients having general or regional anaesthesia)
- I understand that any procedure, in addition to those described on this form will only be carried out if it is necessary to save my life or to prevent serious harm to my health.
- I have been told about additional procedures which may become necessary during my treatment. I have listed below any procedures which I do not wish to be carried out without further discussion:

Details of any extra procedures which I do not wish to be carried out without further discussion:

Patient signature:	Date:	
Name (PRINT):		
A witness should sign below if the her consent. Young people/childr	ne patient is unable to sign but has ind en may also like a parent to sign here (s	icated his or see notes).
Patient signature:	Date:	
Name (PRINT):		
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Guidance to Health Professionals

(to be read in conjunction with C43 Policy and Procedures for Obtaining Consent, Including associated Quick Reference Guides available via the Trust Intranet)

What a consent form is for:

This form documents the patient's agreement to go ahead with the investigation or treatment you have proposed. It is not a legal waiver – if patients, for example, do not receive enough information on which to base their decision, then the consent may not be valid, even though the form has been signed. Patients are also entitled to change their mind after signing the form, if they retain capacity to do so. The form should act as an *aide-memoire* to health professionals and patients, by providing a checklist of the kind of information patients should be offered, and by enabling the patient to have a written record of the main points discussed. In no way, however, should the written information provided for the patient be regarded as a substitute for face-to-face discussions with the patient.

The law on consent:

See the department of Health's Reference guide to consent for examination or treatment for a comprehensive summary of the law on consent (also available at www.doh.gov.uk/consent or via the Trust Intranet)

Who can give consent?

Everyone aged 16 or more is presumed to be competent to give consent for themselves, unless the opposite is demonstrated. If a child under the age of 16 has "sufficient understanding and intelligence to enable him or her to understand fully what is proposed", then he or she will be competent to give consent for himself or herself. Young people aged 16 and 17, and legally 'competent' younger children, may therefore sign this form for themselves, but may like a parent to countersign as well. If the child is not able to give consent for himself or herself, some-one with parental responsibility may do so on their behalf and a separate form is available for this purpose. Even where a child is able to give consent for himself or herself, you should always involve those with parental responsibility in the child's care, unless the child specifically asks you not to do so. If a patient is mentally competent to give consent but is physically unable to sign a form, you should complete this form as usual, and ask an independent witness to confirm that the patient has given consent orally or non-verbally.

Information

Information about what the treatment will involve, its benefits and risks (including side-effects and complications) and the alternatives to the particular procedure proposed, is crucial for patients when making up their minds. The courts have stated that patients should be told about 'significant risks which would affect the judgement of a reasonable patient'. 'Significant' has not been legally defined, but the GMC requires doctors to tell patients about 'serious or frequently occurring' risks. In addition if patients make clear they have particular concerns about certain kinds of risk, you should make sure they are informed about these risks, even if they are very small or rare. You should always answer questions honestly. Sometimes, patients may make it clear that they do not want to have any information about the options, but want you to decide on their behalf. In such circumstances, you should do your best to ensure that the patient receives at least very basic information about what is proposed. Where information is refused, you should document this on page 2 of the form or in the patient's notes.

Additional Guidance (point 1):

When not to use this form:

If the patient is 18 or over and lacks the capacity to give consent, you should use form 4 (form for adults who lack the capacity to consent to investigation or treatment) instead of this form.

A patient lacks capacity if they have an impairment of the mind or brain or disturbance affecting the way their mind or brain works and they cannot:

- Understand information about the decision to be made
- · Retain that information in their mind
- Use or weigh that information as part of the decision-making process, or
- Communicate their decision (by talking, using sign language or any other means)

You should always take all reasonable steps (for example involving more specialist colleagues) to support a patient in making their own decision, before concluding that they are unable to do so.

Relatives <u>cannot</u> be asked to sign a form on behalf of an adult who lacks capacity to consent for themselves, unless they have been given the authority to do so under a Lasting Power of Attorney or as a court appointed deputy.

Additional Guldance (point 2):

Significant, unavoidable or frequently occurring risks:

All surgery carries a risk of infection. Some patients (such as those with reduced immunity due to their illness or as a side-effect of their treatment) and some types of operation carry a higher risk of such infection than others. In some instances an infection acquired during operation can have a serious impact on your quality of life or even lead to death. Your surgeon will inform you if your operation is associated with specific risks and / or you have a condition which makes you particularly susceptible.

Chester v Afshar (chapter 1, paragraph 17). The House of Lords judgement held that a failure to warn a patient of a risk of injury inherent in surgery, however small the probability of the risk occurring, denies the patient the chance to make a fully informed decision. The judgement held that it is advisable that health practitioners give information about all significant possible adverse outcomes and make a record of the judgement given.

Human Tissue Act (see also the Consent Policy –Reference Guide on Human Tissue, and the Human Tissue Authority Code of Practice on Consent, both documents are available via the Trust Intranet.