

UNDERSTANDING INFORMED CONSENT



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

As a patient, you have the right to not only fully understand any medical procedure or treatment you receive before anyone proceeds with it, but you also have to agree to it. It is **your understanding** and **your agreement**.

WHAT IS INFORMED MEDICAL CONSENT?

- Your health care providers responsibility is to effectively communicate with you or your loved ones about your condition, testing and treatment options.
- Health care providers must obtain your informed consent before proceeding with any option that you choose.
- Before you consent to anything, make sure you completely understand everything that you're informed.

EXAMPLE SCENARIO

- You just received a diagnosis and there are many different treatment options available. All the options all have different risks and side effects.
- Your doctor recommends one option, but you have read about an alternative treatment that interests you or a possible clinical trial.
- It's your doctor's job to explain their opinion while also listening to your concerns and your personal preferences in order for you to make this informed decision.
- Ensure that your doctor discusses your diagnosis, the proposed treatment plan, all the risks and benefits, any alternative options, and what happens if you choose to do absolutely nothing.



Ask as many questions as you would like until you **completely understand**, and if you do sign the informed consent, know that **you can change your mind** not to continue.

QUESTIONS AND NOTES

DATE:

APPOINTMENT:

PROVIDER NAME:

Question	Notes
Can you explain my condition to me?	
What are all the testing and treatment options available?	
What are the side effects?	
Are there any potential complications or risks?	
What are the benefits?	
Is there any other information I should be aware of?	

Additional Questions/Notes:
