



**York Teaching Hospital**  
NHS Foundation Trust

**Patient Agreement to Investigation or Treatment**

Responsible health professional: .....

Job Title: .....

<b>Patient details (or pre-printed label)</b>	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Patient's surname or family name.....	Special requirements (e.g. other language or communication method) .....	
Patient's first names.....	.....	
Date of birth.....	.....	
NHS number (or other identifier).....	.....	

**Name of proposed procedure or course of treatment** (include brief explanation of medical term if not clear):  
Complex Abdominal Wall Reconstruction with

Stoppa Repair with mesh     Component separation     Minimal invasive Component separation

Umbilicus (belly button) removal

Details:.....

.....

**Statement of health professional** (to be filled in by health professional with appropriate knowledge of proposed procedure, as specified in Consent to Examination and Treatment Policy).

I have explained the procedure to the patient. In particular, I have explained:

- The intended benefits:** i) to reduce the risk of strangulation of bowel within the hernia  
ii) to return the function of the abdominal wall to the best possible state.

**Serious or frequently occurring risks:**

Bleeding, infrequently: one in a hundred will be taken back to theatre to control the bleeding, wound infection and breakdown, wound seromas, abdominal wall bruising, skin and abdominal wall necrosis, bowel injury during surgery, bowel ileus, intra-abdominal hypertension, mesh infection, numbness, scarring, irregularities in abdominal wall shape and differences in how the two halves of the abdomen look, loose or excess soft tissue or skin, recurrence of hernia. General risks like DVT (blood clots in legs) which occasionally leads to pulmonary embolism (blood clots in the lungs), lung infection, further surgery, death

**Alternatives:** no alternative operative treatment but conservative management without surgery is an option with merits and risks and is discussed

**Any extra procedures that may become necessary during the procedure:**

Blood transfusion:                      Yes                       No                       Other: Yes                       No

If other, please specify: Medical photographs

I have also discussed what the procedure is likely to involve, the benefits and risks of any available alternative treatments (including no treatment) and any particular concerns of this patient.

**The following leaflet or tape has been provided:** PIL1047 Complex Abdominal Wall Hernia v3  
PIL1088 What you need to know when coming into hospital for surgery  
PIL1119 Recovering from major abdominal surgery

**This procedure will involve:** General and/or regional anaesthesia     Local anaesthesia     Sedation

Signed: .....                      Date: .....

Name (PRINT): .....                      Job Title: .....

**Contact details** (if patient wishes to discuss options later): .....

**Statement of Interpreter** (where appropriate): I have interpreted the information above to the patient to the best of my ability and in a way in which I believe s/he can understand.

Signed: .....                      Date: .....

Name (PRINT): .....

**Statement of Patient**

Please read this form carefully. If your treatment has been planned in advance, you should already have your own copy of the consent form which describes the benefits and risks of the proposed treatment and any alternatives available. If not, you will be offered a copy now. If you have any further questions, please 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 the 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 any further discussion.

.....

.....

.....

**I agree/disagree** (please circle) to health care students observing my treating clinician during my procedure.

Patient's Signature:.....                      Date: .....

Name (PRINT): .....

**A witness should sign below if the patient is unable to sign but has indicated their consent. Young people/children may also like a parent to sign here (see Guidance Notes for Professionals).**

Signature:.....                      Date: .....

Name (PRINT): .....

**Confirmation of Consent** (to be completed by a health professional when the patient is admitted for the procedure, if the patient has signed the form in advance).

On behalf of the team treating the patient, I have confirmed with the patient that s/he has no further questions and wishes the procedure to go ahead.

Signed: .....                      Date: .....

Name (PRINT): .....                      Job Title: .....

**Important Notes (tick if applicable)**

See also advance directive/living will (e.g. Jehovah's Witness form)

Patient has withdrawn consent (ask patient to sign here)     Signature of patient: .....

**Bottom copy accepted by patient** (please tick)    YES     NO

## Consent form 1: Guidance to health professionals (to be read in conjunction with consent policy)

### 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.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)).

### Who can give consent

Everyone aged 16 or more is presumed to have the capacity 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 have the capacity to give consent for himself or herself. Young people aged 16 and 17, and younger children who are deemed to have capacity, 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 has the capacity 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.

### 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 **cannot** 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.

### 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 overleaf or in the patient's notes.