

## Revised Procedural/Surgical Consent Form

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. Where do I witness the signature of the patient?**

The witness signature is no longer required on the consent form. UCSF Medical Center Policy required this signature line. A decision was made to remove the witness signature line from the consent form as it caused a lot of confusion and it is not required by law.

**Q. Do these changes affect the universal protocol policy?**

There are no changes to the process as set forth in the universal protocol policy.

**Q. What revisions have been made to the consent form?**

Language has been added to provide more information to the patient as follows:

UCSF Medical Center is a teaching hospital and that residents will be involved in the surgery and that the attending may be out of the OR for some surgical tasks.

Anesthesia risks including the potential for dental damage.

Information about pathology and radiology services being utilized as necessary.

Risk, benefits and alternatives section has been expanded to include more information and the fact that there are no guaranteed outcomes.

Industry representatives may be present for purposes of medical observation or technical assistance.

Patients have a right to be informed if the physician has an economic interest related to the performance of a procedure.

The patient consents to blood testing in the event of an accidental exposure to HIV, Hepatitis or other bloodborne pathogens.

The revised consent form includes blood transfusion consent language.

**Q. With this revised consent form, are physicians still required to document the risks, benefits discussion with the patient in the medical record prior to surgery?**

Yes

**Q. What if a patient needs a blood transfusion unrelated to a surgery/procedure?**

You use the same blood transfusion consent form as before.

- Q. **If a patient consents to blood transfusion related to a surgery/procedure, how long does that consent last? Must we re-consent for blood transfusion after the surgery if needed?**

If the patient consented to blood transfusion on the surgery/procedure consent form, it remains in effect for the entire course of hospitalization if the indication for a blood transfusion is related to the surgery/procedure. If the indication for blood transfusion is unrelated, then you need to obtain consent again using the separate blood transfusion consent form.

- Q. **If a patient refuses the blood transfusion on this new revised consent form, do we still need the informed refusal form?**

Yes

- Q. **Under the Transfusion section of the consent form it asks if the patient has been given the information form based on medical indications. Before the new consent form was adopted, when utilizing the blood transfusion form, the practice was for the physician to give the first page of the consent form titled “A Patient’s Guide to Blood Transfusions” to the patient. What do we give the patient when using this form?**

There should be copies of the information form “A Patient’s Guide to Blood Transfusions” available in the pre-op areas, inpatient units and clinics to provide to patients.

- Q. **The physician must provide the information and sign correct?**

The law has changed and now physicians may delegate that duty to a PA, NP or Midwife.

- Q. What needs to be documented in the medical record when an interpreter is utilized in the informed consent process?

For patients who do not speak English or whose **preferred language for discussing health care** is not English, a professional interpreter should be used for the informed consent discussion **AND** completion of the Authorization for surgery, Special Diagnostic or Therapeutic procedure, Blood Transfusion and Administration of Anesthesia form. Use of a professional interpreter should be documented as follows:

Within the medical record entry documenting the discussion of the risks, benefits and alternatives of the surgery, treatment or procedure,

**AND**

In the designated field on the Authorization for Surgery, Special Diagnostic or Therapeutic procedure, blood transfusion and Administration of Anesthetic form. Completion of this field should be done by the in-person interpreter. Remember to record interpreter name and ID#.

Please refer to Informed Consent Policy: [\(add link\)](#)

Interpreting and Translation Services Policy: [\(add link\)](#)

