

### **Informed Consent - Checklist**

#### **For the person obtaining consent, prior to obtaining consent:-**

1. Am I the right person to obtain this patient's consent? Am I qualified to obtain this consent?
2. Is the person from whom I am obtaining consent legally qualified and competent to give consent?
3. Is consent able to be given freely (absence of coercion)?
4. Do I need an interpreter to obtain consent? Avoid using a family member as an interpreter.
5. I will encourage the patient to ask questions. What questions could be asked? Would I be able to respond?
6. I will attempt to ascertain whether the patient has any unrealistic expectations of the procedure.

#### **Issues to be addressed when obtaining consent.**

1. Name of the procedure
2. Why is it being recommended (i.e., expected benefits)?
3. Alternatives to the procedure and consequences thereof, including not having the procedure.
4. Who will be conducting the procedure?
5. The nature of the procedure
  - conventional or experimental
  - necessary or optional
  - diagnostic, preventative, therapeutic or cosmetic
6. How is the procedure performed (description of what happens during the procedure, what is involved e.g., the incision, need for blood transfusion etc)?
7. Is this the appropriate time to mark the operative site with an indelible pen?
8. The expected post operative sequence of events
9. Common side effects and material risks (i.e. specific risks that might be important to this particular patient) and the likelihood of these occurring.
10. The degree of certainty that the expected outcome will be achieved in this particular patient.
11. Any significant long-term effects or consequences.
12. The recovery time and the costs (if applicable) likely to be involved.

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