



Consent Before Surgery or a Procedure

When your child has surgery or a medical procedure, you will have a conversation with their surgeon and be asked to sign a consent document. A consent document describes the surgery or procedure. By signing this document, you are saying that you fully understand and agree to the surgery or procedure your child will get. This handout will tell you more about consent documents.

Why we use consent documents

We use consent documents to make sure you fully understand your child's treatment plan. **We do not use consent documents to test you.** If you do not fully understand your child's medical problem or treatment, tell your care provider. It is their job to make sure you understand and answer any questions you may have.

By signing this document, you are saying that you fully understand and agree to your child's procedure.

What your care provider talks with you about before you sign a consent document

Before you sign a consent document, your care provider will talk with you about:

- Your child's diagnosis.
- Details about the procedure or treatment and why we recommend it.
- The possible risks of the treatment or procedure.
- The possible benefits of the treatment or procedure.
- Any options you may have for other treatments.
- The possible risks and benefits of the options.
- The possible risks and benefits of not getting the treatment or procedure.

If you do not feel you fully understand any of these topics, ask your care provider to explain.

Talk about your questions and concerns

Please ask your care provider any questions you have about your child's test, surgery, procedure, or treatment. You can ask questions at any time, even after signing the consent form. If you think of questions after you are done talking with your care provider, you can call, email, or write down your questions to ask the next time you see your care provider.

You are an important member of your child's care team, and we want you to fully understand your child's treatment and why we recommend it. It is your care provider's job to answer any questions.

Procedures at Stanford Children's Health



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Emergency consent

In rare emergencies, care providers may start treatment without waiting for consent, using their professional medical judgment to do what is best for the patient. This is called presumed or implied consent. This is only done in emergency situations that require immediate treatment, for example, if a patient is unconscious or if they can't breathe.

When your child is in a stable condition, the care team will tell you everything that was done and why.

Giving consent over the phone

If you can't come to the hospital to sign the consent document, we will call you. During this call, we will:

- Talk with you about the surgery or procedure.
- Answer your questions.
- Get your consent.