Insert your project logos. Refer to our [branding guidelines](https://www.rch.org.au/ethics/informed_consent_and_plain_language/Plain_Language_Resources/).

# Participant Information and Consent Form

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Short n**ame of project** | <Short, plain language project title>  |
| Full name of project | <Full name of project. Delete if not needed> |
| Principal investigator | <Title, name, position> |
| Project number | <[ERM number](https://au.forms.ethicalreviewmanager.com/Account/Login)> |
| <Site Name> | <Delete if not needed>  |



### What am I being invited to do?

We are inviting you to take part in a project that <key research topic/question>. We have invited you to take part because <reason>.

If you take part, we will ask you to <provide a brief summary of what they need to do in the project>.

Around <number of people> will take part in this project. They will be from <hospitals/sites around Australia>.

Please read this information and ask us any questions. You can also talk to someone you trust, like a family member, friend, or your doctor. You can take time to make up your mind. You get to decide whether this project is right for you.



### What is the purpose of this project?

In this project, we will <short description of what the project is about>.

[Include a brief description of project background, treatment, including whether it is approved by the TGA, and other relevant information. Keep this brief. Use short sentences and paragraphs.

If you need to provide more detailed information, provide it as supplementary information in the ‘where can I find out more information’ section. See the CTIQ User Guide for details on providing supplementary information.]



### Do I have to take part and can I change my mind?

**Taking part is up to you**

You get to decide whether you take part in this project. You can say yes or no.

Your decision will not affect your relationship with <The Royal Children's Hospital / Murdoch Children's Research Institute / other.>

<If you choose not to take part, your doctor will discuss other options with you. These may include <relevant standard of care options>>.

**You can change your mind at any time**

If you do take part, you can stop at any time. Simply tell someone in the project team. You do not have to give us the reason.

**[Option 1**:] Once you stop taking part, we will not collect any more information about you. We will destroy the information we have collected.

**OR**

**[Option 2:**] Once you stop taking part, we will not do any more project visits. However, we will keep the information we have already collected about you. This is so we can measure the project results properly. Please only join this project if you are happy with this approach.

**The project might stop for other reasons**

We might need to stop the project earlier than expected. If this happens, we will explain the reasons to you.

We may also ask you to stop taking part in the project if it is no longer in your best interests. If this happens, we will discuss this with you.



### What do I have to do if I take part?

If you take part in this project, you will need to <provide brief summary of what the project involves>. You will need to spend <X hours on this project / X months in this project>.

This section gives you more information about what you will need to do.

<In the rest of this section, go into more detail about what the project involves. Use subheadings to break up the components of the project. You can also use tables and relevant visual aids. Depending on your study, this section could contain information about things such as screening, randomisation, study visits and procedures and so on. For further guidance, see the RCH [Standard Wordings](https://www.rch.org.au/ethics/informed_consent_and_plain_language/Plain_Language_Resources/) document.

If your study is multi-site please consider other sites when providing these details. Make sure these details are correct for the participating sites and allow additions or deletions of information as needed.>

**a. Study visits**

<You will need to visit the <The Royal Children’s Hospital / Murdoch Children’s Research Institute / other> about <XX> times.> Explain what these study visits will involve and how long they will take. You can use sub-headings to explain the components of the study visits.>>

**b. Online survey**

<We will email you a survey about your health. The survey will ask questions about XXX. It will take about 30 minutes to fill out.>

**Optional parts of this project**

<If you take part in this project we will ask you to think about letting us do a couple of extra things. The first is to let us <XX>. The second one is to let us <XX>.

You can say no to one or both of these things. If you say no, you can still take part in the rest of the project.

Here is more information about what the optional consents involve.>>

**a. Optional consent: use of images**

<E.g. We are asking you let us use your clinical photographs in this research. We would like to include these photographs in conference presentations and journal articles about our research. We will use these images to <XX>. You will not be identifiable in these images. We will protect your privacy by <XX>. You can say no to this if you want to. If you say no, you can still take part in the project.>

**b. Optional consent: contact about future projects**

<E.g. We are asking you to let us contact you about future projects about <XX>. If you say yes, we will contact you by <XX>. You can say no to this if you want to. If you say no, you can still take part in the project.>

**During the <relevant period> you <must/must not> [Include here any restrictions, change in lifestyle, contraception, change of medication, etc specific to participation in the project.]**

This table below outlines what you need to do in this project.

[The table below can be changed as needed for your project. Remember to keep the explanations concise and relevant to the reader. Make sure to include:

* How the activity will be completed: online, in-person, by phone, etc.
* How long the activity will take
* A short description of what the activity involves
* Whether the activity is mandatory or optional
* Any particular requirements or access to intervention after the project finishes]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What part of the project?** | **What do I have to do?** |
| When you start the project | [Include screening activities if relevant. Otherwise, remove this section][Use the following text if the project is randomised.]If the project is suitable for you, you will be randomised. This means you will be put into a group by chance, like flipping a coin. We put people into groups and give each group a different treatment to see if one is better. You will have <an equal> chance of being placed in <either> group. [If project is double blinded, include the following] Neither you, your doctor, or the project staff will know what group you are in. You will be put in one of <two> groups: Group 1: <project intervention>Group 2: <a placebo, which is a medicine with no active ingredients>. |
| When you start treatment | [Include any activities when they start treatment. Include any optional activities.] |
| During the project | [Include any activities during the project. This includes any optional activities.] |
| At the end of your project participation | [Include any post-trial access to drug/intervention] |
| After the project finishes | We will give you a final letter that summarises the project results in plain language.  |

Your time and expenses

[Delete this subheading and following text if it is not relevant to your project. Choose option 1, 2 or both below if this section is relevant.]

**[Option 1**:] You will need to spend <number of hours/days> in this project. To thank you for your time, we will give you <x amount of money and/or other item>.

**And/Or**

**[Option 2:**] We will reimburse you for some of your out-of-pocket expenses while you are in this project. We will reimburse you for <parking/meals/other>.

[Include information about the method and timing of payments or reimbursements.]

**Project findings**

At the end of the project we will send you a final letter. This will explain what we found out in this project – in other words, our project results. The letter will not have any information specifically about you.



### What are the benefits of taking part?

By taking part, you will help the researchers understand more about <project topic>. This knowledge may help people in the future.

You <may/may not> directly benefit from taking part in this project.

[Include other potential benefits here, such as helping others or increased monitoring.]



### What are the risks and discomforts of taking part?

<If you take part in this project, you may XX>

[Tell the participant how the risks of taking part in this project differ from the risks they would face if they do not take part in the project. For example, if the risks are the same as standard care, you should make this clear.

Focus on the risks that are most likely to be relevant to the decision whether to take part. **These are likely to be those that are** **common, even if they are mild. They are also likely to be concerned about severe risks, even if they are rare.** Please see the user guide for more information about presenting risks.

Some suggested subheadings and section text can be found below. Delete any sections that are not relevant to your project and add any relevant risks that are not listed here. Further details about risks can be provided as supplementary information if needed, such as product information sheets.]

Risks of <project intervention>

[Delete this subheading and following text if it is not relevant to your project.]

All <medicines/devices> have side effects. The possible known side effects from <the intervention> are listed in the table below. <Most of the side effects are rare>. Some rare side effects may be serious. There may also be side effects that are unknown. Many side effects go away after you stop taking a medicine. Others can last a longer time or forever.

You should talk to a doctor urgently if you start to feel unwell during this project.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Very Common side effects**More than one in 10 people will experience these side effects | **Common side effects**More than one in 100 people will experience these side effects | **Rare side effects**People will only experience these side effects in unusual cases |
| * <Side effect>
 | * <Side effect>
 | * <Side effect>
 |

Risks for unborn and newborn babies

[Delete this subheading and following text if it is not relevant to your project.]

<Name of medicine/intervention> is dangerous for unborn and newborn babies.

**Or**

**<**The effects of name of medicine/intervention> on unborn and newborn babies are unknown.

You cannot participate if you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or if you or a partner are trying to become pregnant. You should take action to avoid pregnancy while <taking medicine/ having intervention> and <for the following time frame>. This includes not donating sperm or eggs.

[If there are mandatory contraceptive or testing requirements include them here.] Tell us if you or a partner has conceived during this time frame. This is so we can help you and your partner manage any risks.

Risks if you are taking other medicines

[Delete this subheading and following text if it is not relevant to your project.]

There are some medicines and treatments that you cannot have while taking part in this project. You need to tell us about any medicines and treatments you are taking. These include:

* prescription medicines, such as antibiotics
* over-the-counter medicines, such a paracetamol
* vitamins or herbal medicines, such as echinacea
* alternative treatments, such as acupuncture.

We will tell you if you need to stop taking any.

Risks from exposure to radiation

[Delete this subheading and following text if it is not relevant to your project.]

[Insert a risk statement about exposure to ionising radiation as per local institution, HREC and state regulations.]

Chance of distress

[Delete this subheading and following text if it is not relevant to your project.]

The questions in the <questionnaire/survey/interview> may cover sensitive topics. This may cause you distress. If this happens, you can <take a break from/stop> the <questionnaire/survey/interview> at any time.

We can also link you in with support. <This will be free.>

**Breach of confidentiality**

[Delete this subheading and following text if it is not relevant to your project.]

In this focus group, we will talk about sensitive topics. We will remind everyone they must keep what they hear in this focus group confidential. However there is a chance that other people in the group could share information with people outside this project.



### How will my information <and samples> be used for this project?

[If your research project involves genetic and genomic research, consider whether the InFORMed template is right for you. For research that involves diagnostic or predictive genetic information, we recommend you use the [Australian Genomics consent forms](https://www.australiangenomics.org.au/tools-and-resources/research-consent-forms/).]

This section tells you how this project will collect, store, use, and share and/or dispose of your information <and samples>. If you do not want us to collect this information, you cannot participate in this project. If you would like to know more, see our <Data Management Plan/Privacy Policy/other document>.

**Collecting your information**

[Adjust the sources for collecting information as needed for your project.]

We will collect information for the project from <your medical record, local doctor/GP, and directly from you>.

[The statement and table below are for data linkage. Delete the statement and table if they are not relevant to your project. If relevant to your project, think about any information about the participant held by a third party that will be accessed by the project.]

We will also collect information about you from other services. We will link it to information from this project. We may need to use identifiers to correctly link these different sources of information. These identifiers could include you name, address, or date of birth.

We will only share your identifiers to accurately link information about you from different sources. For all other data sharing purposes, we will replace your identifiers with a unique code.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Where will we collect your information from** | **What kind of information we will collect** |
| <Medicare, held by Australian Government> | <Your child’s usage of health services> |
|  |  |

**Keeping your information <and samples> safe**

To keep your information <and samples> safe, we will:

follow all relevant privacy requirements

store information securely <at location> and/or <on an electronic database>

store <samples> securely at <location>

take steps to prevent anyone from accessing information <or samples> that identifies you unless they are authorised to do so, such as the project sponsor

give information and samples a code and keep them separate from your name or contact information.

You can ask us to tell you what information we have collected about you as part of this project. If your information is not correct, you can ask us to change it. If you have any complaints about how we are managing your personal information, you can <contact Privacy Officer>.

We will keep your information for <number of years>. We will keep your samples for <number of years>.

After this, <we will destroy the information and samples>

Or <we will destroy the information and samples unless you have agreed for them to be used for future research>

Or <we will permanently remove any information that directly identifies you but keep the deidentified information and samples>.

**Sharing your information with others**

[Delete this subheading and following text if it is not relevant to your project. This subheading should be used for any information sharing that will occur as part of the project. The next section deals with future sharing of information and samples. Consider if personal information will be sent overseas, and if so to which countries the information will be sent.]

We will share some of your information with these <people/organisations>:

* **Your <doctor/GP/other>**: we will tell your <doctor/GP/other> that you are taking part in this project. They <may/will> add this information to your medical records. If we find out information relevant for your ongoing care, we will share this information with your <doctor/GP/other>. This is so you get the care you need.

**Analysing samples**: We <may/will> send your samples to <Australian laboratories to be analysed> AND/OR < laboratories in country A, B, C to be analysed. If sent overseas, your samples may not be covered by Australian laws>.

**Other parties if legally required:** by law, we may be required to share your information with others in certain circumstances. <In this project we will test for HIV and hepatitis. If results are positive, we will tell government health authorities>.

**Publishing project information**

We will share certain information from this project so that others can use the findings. This project information <does not identify you individually/is limited to [data items] to make it hard to identify you>. We will make this project information available <through journal articles, presentations, and [restricted access/public] data repositories>. **By being in this project, you agree to let us share the findings.**



**How will my information <and samples> be shared for future research?**

[Delete this entire section and following text if it is not relevant to your project.]

**Sharing information**

To advance science, medicine and public health, we may share your **deidentified information** with funders, research projects, biobanks, medical journals or data research repositories. Some of these organisations may be located overseas. **Any data that we send overseas may not be protected by Australian laws and regulations.** By signing this consent form you are giving us permission to do this.

If we share your information, we will remove identifying details such as your name, date of birth and address. We will give this information a special code number. We will put security measures in place to prevent re-identification of your identity. These security measures include <insert details>.

We will also put security measures in place to protect your data if we transfer it to other people. We will <insert details about how their data will be securely transferred>.

Despite our best efforts, there is a small chance that you could be re-identified by someone outside of this research project. In the unlikely event that this happens, someone from the research team will contact you. If, at any point, you think that you may have been re-identified, please let us know.

[For other data sharing options, refer to the [RCH Standard Wordings](https://www.rch.org.au/uploadedFiles/Main/Content/ethics/Standard%20Wordings%20June%202024.doc) document.]

**Future funding**

We may apply to government organisations or commercial companies for <more> funding for this project. If we get <more> funding, we may need to share your deidentified information with the funder. If so, we will do this in a way that protects your privacy. We will also let you know that we have done this.

More information about how we will share your <individual/more detailed> data <and samples> for future research is in our <Data Sharing Policy/other document>.



### Who is running and paying for this project?

This project is being led. by <name of site>.

This project is being organised by <name of sponsor/CRO and/or other institution>.

The site is receiving funding from <institution/funding body/grant details> to run this project.

[List any relevant conflicts of interest here.]



### What happens if something goes wrong?

[This section may not be applicable for all types of research projects. Delete this entire section if you do not need it.]

In an emergency, you should call 000 or go to the emergency department at your nearest hospital. If your injury is not urgent, you should contact us. We can help you organise medical care.

[The following text is for **commercially sponsored** clinical trials.]

The sponsor of this project has agreed to follow the compensation process set out in the <Medicines Australia’s/Medical Technology Association of Australia’s> ‘Guidelines for Compensation for Injury Resulting from Participation in a Company-Sponsored Clinical Trial’.

[Link to the appropriate MA or MTAA Guidelines for participants to access as needed]

Under these guidelines, you should be compensated for significant injuries you get from taking part in this project. <Project sponsor> will decide whether to pay compensation to you and how much you will get. You may also be able to take action through the courts. You may wish to seek independent legal advice. If you are eligible for Medicare, you can get free treatment as a public patient in any Australian public hospital.

[The following text is for **non-commercially sponsored** clinical trials.]

If you are harmed because of taking part in this project, contact <Principal Investigator, contact phone number>. We will talk about treatment options with you and your doctor. You may also be able to take action through the courts. You may wish to seek independent legal advice. If you are eligible for Medicare, you can get free treatment as a public patient in any Australian public hospital.



### Who has reviewed and approved this project?

This project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne. This is an independent committee that makes sure that this project meets Australian ethical standards for research that involves people. <This form has been created/reviewed with><consumer group name>.

**Comments or complaints about how this project is being run**

If you have any comments or complaints about this project, please contact the Director of Research Operations at The Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne and quote this reference number XXXX.

You can phone the Director on (03) 9345 5044 or email them at rch.ethics@rch.org.au.

[If relevant the following text is for a participating site to complete for a multi-site project.]

<If you would like to speak to someone at the site at which your child is participating please contact <position/name/phone number/email and quote this reference number XXXX>.



### Where can I find more information?

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. You can contact a member of the project team at any time to ask questions.

<Name > <Role> <Contact details, phone number preferred>

<Name > <Role> <Contact details, phone number preferred>

You can find out more information about the project by <visiting our website/scanning the QR code below/asking us> for:

* [List supplementary information here, using links if electronic]

[See User Guide for more guidance on providing supplementary information.]

# Signature Page

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Short **Name of Project** | <Short name of project>  |
| Full Name of Project | <Full name of project> |
| Principal Investigator | <Principal Investigator> |
| Project number | <Project number> |

|  |
| --- |
| **Consent to take part in this project:**  |
| By signing this consent form, I acknowledge that:* I freely agree to take part in this project
* I understand that I can stop taking part in the project at any time
* I have read, or have had read to me, the information provided about this project and understand what is involved including the use of my personal information
* I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and am satisfied with the answers I received

[If they apply to this project, include the following statements:]* <I agree to genetic testing as part of taking part in this project>
* <I give permission for my medical records to be accessed for the purposes of this project>
 |
| **Optional parts of this project** **[Delete section if not relevant. If you use optional consents, you must also explain them in the body of the consent form.]** | **Yes** | **No** |
| a. <Optional consent: use of images>  | £ | £ |
| b. <Optional consent: contact about future projects> | £ | £ |

**Participant’s details**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**<Person conducting the informed consent discussion**

I have explained the research project, its procedures and risks to the potential participant and I believe they have understood that explanation.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ >

**<Witness (where decision-maker has required assistance to read this form)**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ >

Each person must sign and personally date this consent form