



Queensland Government

# Laparotomy Consent

Adult (18 years and over)

Facility: .....

(Affix identification label here)

URN:

Family name:

Given name(s):

Address:

Date of birth:

Sex:  M  F  I

## A. Does the patient have capacity?

- Yes → **GO TO section B**  
 No → **COMPLETE section A**

You must adhere to the Advance Health Directive (AHD), or if there is no AHD, the consent obtained from a substitute decision-maker in the following order: Category 1. Tribunal-appointed guardian; 2. Enduring Power of Attorney; or 3. Statutory Health Attorney.

Name of substitute decision-maker:

Category of substitute decision-maker:

## B. Is an interpreter required?

If yes, the interpreter has:

- provided a sight translation of the informed consent form in person  
 translated the informed consent form over the telephone

Name of interpreter:

Interpreter code:

Language:

## C. Patient/substitute decision-maker requests the following procedure(s)

Laparotomy

Site/side of procedure:

## D. Risks specific to the patient in having a laparotomy

(Doctor/clinician to document additional risks not included in the patient information sheet):

## E. Risks specific to the patient in *not* having a laparotomy

(Doctor/clinician to document specific risks in not having a laparotomy):

## F. Alternative treatment options

(Doctor/clinician to document alternative treatment not included in the patient information sheet):

## G. Information for the doctor/clinician

The information in this consent form is not intended to be a substitute for direct communication between the doctor/clinician and the patient/substitute decision-maker.

I have explained to the patient/substitute decision-maker the contents of this form and am of the opinion that the information has been understood.

Name of doctor/clinician:

Designation:

Signature:

Date:

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BINDING MARGIN

v6.00  
 Clinical content review: 2011  
 Clinical check: 11/2020  
 Published: 01/2021



SW9215

LAPAROTOMY CONSENT



# Laparotomy Consent

Adult (18 years and over)

(Affix identification label here)

URN:

Family name:

Given name(s):

Address:

Date of birth:

Sex:  M  F  I

## H. Patient/substitute decision-maker consent

I acknowledge that the doctor/clinician has explained:

- the "Laparotomy" patient information sheet
- the medical condition and proposed treatment, including the possibility of additional treatment
- the specific risks and benefits of the procedure
- the prognosis, and risks of not having the procedure
- alternative treatment options
- that there is no guarantee the procedure will improve the medical condition
- that the procedure may involve a blood transfusion
- that tissues/blood may be removed and used for diagnosis/management of the condition
- that if a life-threatening event occurs during surgery, I will be treated based on documented discussions (e.g. AHD or ARP [Acute Resuscitation Plan])
- that a doctor/clinician other than the consultant/specialist may assist with/conduct the clinically appropriate procedure/treatment/investigation/examination; this may include a doctor/clinician undergoing further training under supervision
- that if the doctor/clinician wishes to record video, audio or images during the procedure where the recording is not required as part of the treatment (e.g. for training or research purposes), I will be asked to sign a separate consent form. If I choose not to consent, it will not adversely affect my access, outcome or rights to medical treatment in any way.

I was able to ask questions and raise concerns with the doctor/clinician.

I understand I have the right to change my mind regarding consent at any time, including after signing this form (*this should be in consultation with the doctor/clinician*).

### I/substitute decision-maker have received the following consent and patient information sheet(s):

- "Laparotomy"
- "About your anaesthetic"
- "Fresh blood and blood products transfusion"

On the basis of the above statements,

### 1) I/substitute decision-maker consent to having a laparotomy.

Name of patient/substitute decision-maker:

Signature:

Date:

## 2) Student examination/procedure for professional training purposes:

For the purpose of undertaking training, a clinical student(s) may observe medical examination(s) or procedure(s) and may also, subject to patient/substitute decision-maker consent, assist with/conduct an examination or procedure on a patient while the patient is under anaesthetic.

I/substitute decision-maker consent to a clinical student(s) undergoing training to:

- observe examination(s)/procedure(s)  Yes  No
- assist with examination(s)/procedure(s)  Yes  No
- conduct examination(s)/procedure(s)  Yes  No

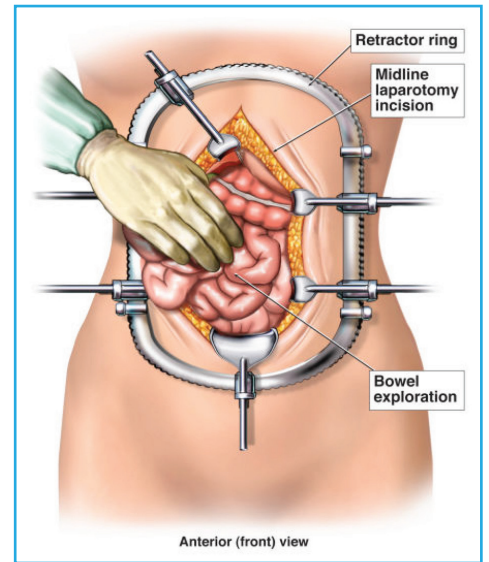
A copy of this form should be given to the patient/substitute decision-maker to read carefully and allow time to ask any questions about the procedure. The consent form and patient information sheet should be included in the patient's medical record.



## 1. What is a laparotomy and how will it help me/the patient?

A laparotomy is a surgical examination of the inside of the abdomen and the internal organs for any abnormality. This is done through a 15–30cm cut into the abdomen, depending on the size of the abdomen.

Image 1: Exploratory laparotomy.  
Illustration Copyright © 2019 Nucleus Medical Media,  
All rights reserved. [www.nucleusmedicalmedia.com](http://www.nucleusmedicalmedia.com)



## 2. What are the risks?

There are risks and complications with this procedure. There may also be risks specific to each person's individual condition and circumstances. Please discuss these with the doctor/clinician and ensure they are written on the consent form before you sign it. Risks include but are not limited to the following:

### Specific risks

- deep bleeding in the abdomen. This may need fluid replacement, blood transfusion or further surgery. This may mean a longer stay in hospital and longer recovery time
- damage to other organs, such as bladder or bowel, which may need further surgery. This may mean a longer stay in hospital and longer recovery time
- infections such as pus in the abdomen. This may need surgical drainage and antibiotics
- bowel blockage after the operation. This may be temporary or in the longer term. Treatment may be a drip to give fluids into the vein and no food or fluids by mouth. If it doesn't get better, bowel surgery may be necessary which may include a colostomy. This can be temporary or permanent
- adhesions (bands of scar tissue) which can cause bowel obstruction. This can be a short-term or long-term complication and may need further surgery
- the wound may not heal normally. The scar can be thickened and red and may be painful. This is permanent and can be disfiguring
- poor wound healing. The wound may burst open which may require long-term wound care with dressings and antibiotics, or a hernia i.e. rupture can form in the long term. This may need repair by further surgery

- increased risk in smokers of wound and chest infections, heart and lung complications, and thrombosis
- very low possibility of a fistula (a connecting passage between one area and another) developing
- there is a possibility that the symptoms/pain you have been experiencing and the reason for this operation, may not resolve or worsen as a complication of the procedure
- the cause of pain/other symptoms sometimes cannot be found, if you are having an exploratory operation.

### General risks

- bleeding could occur and may require a return to the operating room. Bleeding is more common if you have been taking blood thinning drugs, such as warfarin, aspirin, clopidogrel (Plavix, Iscover, Coplavix), prasugrel (Effient), dipyridamole (Persantin or Asasantin), ticagrelor (Brilinta), apixaban (Eliquis), dabigatran (Pradaxa), rivaroxaban (Xarelto) or complementary/alternative medicines, such as fish oil and turmeric
- small areas of the lung can collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy
- increased risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications, and thrombosis
- heart attack or stroke could occur due to the strain on the heart
- blood clot in the leg (DVT) causing pain and swelling. In rare cases part of the clot may break off and go to the lungs
- death as a result of this procedure is possible.

This procedure will require an anaesthetic.

For more information about the anaesthetic and the risks involved, please refer to the anaesthetic information sheet that has been provided to you. Discuss any concerns with the doctor/clinician.

If you have not been given an anaesthetic information sheet, please ask for one.

## What are the risks of not having a laparotomy?

There may be consequences if you choose not to have the proposed procedure/treatment/investigation/examination. Please discuss these with the doctor/clinician.

If you choose not to have the procedure, you will not be required to sign a consent form.

If you have signed a consent form, you have the right to change your mind at any time prior to the procedure/treatment/investigation/examination. Please contact the doctor/clinician to discuss.



### 3. Are there alternatives?

Making the decision to have a procedure requires the patient/substitute decision-maker to understand the options available. Please discuss any alternative treatment options with your doctor/clinician before signing the consent form.



### 4. What should I expect after the procedure?

Your healthcare team will talk to you about what to expect after your procedure and upon discharge from hospital.



### 5. Who will be performing the procedure?

A doctor/clinician other than the consultant/specialist may assist with/conduct the clinically appropriate procedure/treatment/investigation/examination. This could be a doctor/clinician undergoing further training, however all trainees are supervised according to relevant professional guidelines.

If you have any concerns about which doctor/clinician will be performing the procedure, please discuss with the doctor/clinician.

For the purpose of undertaking professional training in this teaching hospital, a clinical student(s) may observe medical examination(s) or procedure(s) and may also, subject to your consent, assist with/conduct an examination or procedure on a patient while the patient is under anaesthetic.

If you choose not to consent, it will not adversely affect your access, outcome or rights to medical treatment in any way. You are under no obligation to consent to an examination(s) or a procedure(s) being undertaken by a clinical student(s) for training purposes.



## 6. Where can I find support or more information?

Hospital care: before, during and after is available on the Queensland Health website [www.qld.gov.au/health/services/hospital-care/before-after](http://www.qld.gov.au/health/services/hospital-care/before-after) where you can read about your healthcare rights.

You can also see a list of blood thinning medications at [www.health.qld.gov.au/consent/bloodthinner](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/consent/bloodthinner).

Staff are available to support patients' cultural and spiritual needs. If you would like cultural or spiritual support, please discuss with your doctor/clinician.

Queensland Health recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients will experience the best clinical care when their culture is included during shared decision-making.



## 7. Questions

Please ask the doctor/clinician if you do not understand any aspect of this patient information sheet or if you have any questions about your/the patient's medical condition, treatment options and proposed procedure/treatment/investigation/examination.



## 8. Contact us

**In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000).**

If it is not an emergency, but you have concerns, contact 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.