1. Use the current IRB-approved version

✓ DO use the consent form templates on the IRB website, when drafting your study consent form, for the most current regulations and suggestions.

✓ DO update your consent form, when you change study procedures and/or identify new risks to participants.

✓ DO obtain IRB approval before using a revised consent form.

✓ DO keep all original signed consent forms with research study records.

DO print current approved consent forms from eProtocol dashboard, as needed.

Don’t use expired consent forms.

Don’t use old consent forms to save trees.

Don’t alter approved consent forms.

DO verify that each participant is given a signed and dated copy of the consent form at the time of initial consent.
(Required by FDA and California Experimental Subject’s Bill of Rights)

Don’t omit this step; it is “Best Practice” and required as above.
2. Ensure all items are completed

**DO** verify that participant answers all questions on the consent form.

**Don’t** leave consent form questions incomplete.

```
☐ I allow a sample of my tissues to be taken for research use
☐ I DO NOT allow a sample of my tissues to be taken for research use
```

Are you participating in any other research studies? _____ Yes _____ No

**DO** verify that participant follows consent form instructions - or consider modification of the consent form, if appropriate.

**Don’t** confuse initials with checkmarks.

**Don’t** include consent instructions that you do not follow; it may be considered noncompliance.

```
I give consent to be audiotaped during this study.
Please initial:  X Yes ___ No
```

```
I give consent to be videotaped during this study:
Please initial:  X Yes ___ No
```

```
I give consent for tapes resulting from this study to be analyzed for research purposes.
Please initial:  X Yes ___ No
```
3. Get all necessary signatures and dates

**DO** verify that person obtaining consent (POC) has signed, when applicable.

**Don’t** omit signature (or date signed) by POC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protocol Director:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protocol Title:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Signature of Person Obtaining Consent**

| Date |

**DO** verify that signers complete *all applicable lines* on consent form.

**DO** explain, if needed, that Legally Authorized Representative for a child is *parent* or *guardian*.

**Don’t** leave representative’s authority to act undocumented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Child Participant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of Legally Authorized Representative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Date |

| Description of Representative’s Authority to Act for Subject |

**TIP**

✔️ **Use sticky tabs** to indicate all pages that need signatures and/or other responses from signer, so POC can quickly check the consent form for completeness, before giving the signer a copy.
3. Get all necessary signatures and dates

**DO** verify *participant enters date of signing* at the time of consent. This is “Best Practice” and required by FDA regulation 21 CFR 50.27(a).

**Don’t** enter dates for participants – they must write it themselves.

**DO** verify signature *dates* are complete, formatted as consistent with your study SOPs, and legible.

**Don’t** ignore ambiguous dates (Ju = June or July?). Explain them, if needed.
DO verify that participant signs and dates **HIPAA Authorization**, if applicable, before using protected health information.

**Don’t** use data, if signed HIPAA Authorization is not obtained, as required.

Your authorization for the use and/or disclosure of your health information will expire January 1, 2020.

______________________________  ____________
Signature of Participant Date
5. Consent Process

**DO** train the research staff about the *consent process* before beginning a study.

*The principal investigator is responsible* for ensuring that each research participant voluntarily gives informed consent before that individual participates in any research activities. The protocol director/principal investigator is ultimately responsible, even when delegating the task of obtaining informed consent to individuals who are trained and knowledgeable about the research.

*Informed consent is more than just a signature on a form*; it is a process of information exchange. Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), principal investigators, and research sponsors all share responsibility for ensuring that the informed consent process is adequate. Thus, rather than an endpoint, the consent document should be the basis for a meaningful exchange between the investigator and the participant throughout the research.

**More information:**
See HRPP Policy Manual Chapter 12 [Informed Consent and Assent](#)