



Patient's Full Name:
Date of birth:
Health professional seeking consent:
Job title of health professional:
NHS number (or other identifier) of patient:

Informed Risk Co-Consent Form during the Coronavirus ('COVID-19') Pandemic
To be used only in conjunction with surgical consent form

Statement of health professional seeking consent

The COVID-19 pandemic is placing huge demands on the entire National Health Service. The purpose of this co-consent form, which is intended to be utilised concurrently with your consent for surgery form, is for Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust ('the Trust') to ensure that you are aware that your surgical care may be affected in a number of ways during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Trust recognises this as a difficult time for all patients, their families and their carers.

- COVID-19 is extremely contagious and it is believed to spread from person-to-person via respiratory droplets from close contact with infected person or by contact with contaminated objects and surfaces.
- It has a long incubation period during which carriers of COVID-19 may not show symptoms and still be highly contagious. On this basis, and through following advice from the Government, social distancing is recommended for the foreseeable future and at Queen Victoria Hospital ('the Hospital'). To help the Trust keep its patients, staff and visitors safe, to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to keep the Hospital running, the Trust is restricting visiting at the Hospital to essential visitors only.
- The current situation is being closely monitored by the Trust and reasonable preventative measures aimed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 have been put in place by the Trust at the Hospital. However, given the nature of the COVID-19 virus, there is a risk of individuals becoming infected with COVID-19 by virtue of proceeding with elective surgery at the Hospital.
- By leaving your house and attending the Hospital for pre-operation testing, necessary consultations, your operation itself and any follow up care which you require, you will be at an increased risk of contracting COVID-19. This is despite of all the precautionary measures being put in place by the Trust in accordance with guidance from the Government. Due to your attendance at the Hospital, there is an

increased risk that those you are in contact with (including those living with you at home, if applicable) may contract COVID-19 during the pandemic.

- You may be tested for COVID-19 to inform your clinical diagnosis. However, in some cases a test may fail to detect the COVID-19 virus and it therefore may return a negative result. Given the current limits of COVID-19 testing, it is impossible to determine with complete certainty who has and who does not have COVID-19.
- If you have COVID-19 which is undetected when you have your operation it would place you at increased risk of:
 - The frequency and severity of complications relating to your surgery;
 - You being unable to attend normal postoperative follow-up care;
 - Worsening the quality of the outcome of your surgery;
 - You requiring the need for medical treatment in relation to your COVID-19 infection;
 - You requiring ICU care and ventilator support;
 - Complications relating to your COVID-19 infection, some of which may not be known at the time of infection;
 - Death.
- If you, or someone you live in the same house, experiences COVID-19 symptoms – a new, continuous cough or high temperature (of 37.8 degrees or higher) or loss of sense of smell/ taste, and/or other symptoms known to be associated with COVID-19, you should not visit the Hospital but should self-isolate and visit the NHS website online for further advice.

There is no test which is 100% able to detect the presence of Covid-19 virus or any hospital site that is completely free from Covid-19.

Name and Signature of responsible clinician

Signed _____ Date _____

Name (PRINT) _____ Job title _____

Statement of interpreter (where appropriate)

I have interpreted the information above to the patient to the best of my ability and in a way in which I believe he/she can understand.

Signed _____ Date _____

Name (PRINT) _____

Statement of patient

I acknowledge the information above, which I have read together with my surgical consent form.

Signed _____ Date _____

Name (PRINT) _____

Confirmation of consent (to be completed by a health professional when the patient is admitted for the procedure, if the patient/parent has signed the form in advance).

I have confirmed that the patient has no further questions and wishes the procedure to go ahead.

Signed _____ Date _____

Name (PRINT) _____ Job title _____

Specific points for discussion with patient prior to surgery and consent for breast *microsurgical* reconstruction during the COVID-19 pandemic : This process of informed consent must be documented in patient notes and recorded in the surgical consent form.

Your planned operation involves both mastectomy and breast reconstruction. When you sign this form you are consenting to this operation understanding that:

- Breast reconstruction is not a functional necessity and you may still make the choice to delay the reconstruction part of your operation.
- Breast reconstruction involves a longer operation than a mastectomy and therefore you will spend a longer period in the Hospital, and a greater risk of complications.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, success rates of the reconstruction operation may not be the same as before the pandemic and management of complications may be delayed. In autologous breast reconstruction, which uses your own tissue to reconstruct a breast, there is a small risk of the flap not working, for example, due to issues with its blood supply. If there are signs of this within the first couple of days after the breast reconstruction operation, it would normally result in an immediate operation with a return to theatre. This may be delayed during the COVID-19 pandemic, so the risk of total or partial flap loss is increased during this time.
- If you choose to delay your breast reconstruction operation, we are unfortunately unable to predict how long you will be on a waiting list for your re-arranged operation.