F: THE INFORMED CONSENT PROCESS

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Nature of Consent

- Required
- Voluntary
- Informed
- Timely
- Culturally sound
- Recurrent

"Required"

- Nuremberg Code
- Helsinki Declaration

Lack of or diminished capacity for decision-making: Proxy

- unconscious
- mentally ill
- children
- embryos

"Voluntary"

- Not coerced
- Not induced
- Not unchangeable

Vulnerability must be mitigated through a sensitive and appropriate Informed Consent Process.

SURROGACY

- In cases when the research subject is incapable of giving own informed consent because of incapacity.
- Informed consent is sought from a legal surrogate.
 - Substituted Judgement
 - "Best Interest"

ASSENT

- Process and form used when minors participate in research.
- "A child's affirmative agreement to participate in research,"
- Recommendation:

Below 7 - no sign of dissent

7- below 12 yrs old - verbal assent

12- below 15yrs old - signing of assent form

15 - below 18 yrs old - signing of ICF

- Legal guardians must sign Informed consent Form

"Informed"

- Information sheet
 - User friendly
 - Take away
 - Tailored
 - Supported
- Comprehensive

Comprehensive:

- Title and Purpose of the research
- Number of Participants
- Duration of participation
- Procedure/s
- Assignment (Random?) to treatment
- Alternative procedures/treatments
- Risks/ Benefits
- Extent of Confidentiality
- Compensation
- Withdrawal from participation
- Contact person/ Clinic

"Timely"

- Unhurried
- Strategic

"Culturally sound"

- Community involvement
- Individual rights
- Spousal consent

"Recurrent"

- Review
 - protocol changes
 - withdrawal
 - growing competence
 - trial results
 - follow-up studies

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