



FACTS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT CONSENT TO BE CONTACTED FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES

1. What is meant by “research”?

Research is defined in the dictionary as “a studious inquiry or examination”. In the case of health care, research is continuously conducted to obtain information, to explore and analyze it, and to ensure that we are providing the highest quality of care to patients.

2. Why am I being asked to sign a consent form?

Advances in health care occur as a result of research so, as leading academic centres, we strive for research activity in order to ultimately improve the care of our patients. However, under privacy laws, researchers cannot contact you, directly or indirectly, unless The Ottawa Hospital (TOH)/University of Ottawa Heart Institute (UOHI) (or its health care practitioners or authorized administrative staff), have obtained your consent to be contacted.

3. Does consenting to be contacted for research purposes mean I am agreeing to participate in a research project?

No; signing the consent form is NOT an authorization for your actual participation in a research study. Signing the consent form “Yes” means that you agree researchers may contact you to discuss your possible eligibility for and interest in participating in a particular clinical research study.

4. What kind of research may I be asked to participate in?

TOH, the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (the research arm of TOH), and the University of Ottawa Heart Institute are active in all areas of healthcare research. For example, you may be invited to participate in studies involving simple questionnaires or surveys, collection of laboratory samples for testing, observational studies where data is collected from you or your medical chart but your care is routine, or studies involving new (investigational) treatments. Any medical condition or treatment may be studied.

5. What will happen if I decide not to sign this consent form? How will signing or not signing this consent form affect my care at The Ottawa Hospital or the University of Ottawa Heart Institute?

If you prefer not to sign the consent form, this is your right. Signing or not signing the consent form will not affect your medical care in any way.

6. If at any time I choose to withdraw my consent to be contacted by a researcher, or need to obtain additional information about privacy and research, how do I go about doing that?

Let your doctor or health-care provider know so he or she can provide you with a new consent form. For privacy information, or to update your consent to be contacted by a researcher, you may also contact the Privacy Office directly at 613-739-6668; by fax at 613-761-4740 or by e-mail at privacy@toh.on.ca; the UOHI Privacy Office at 613-798-5555 ext 13575 or the Research Ethics Board at 613-798-5555, extension 16719. You can also visit the web-sites at: www.ottawahospital.on.ca for TOH; www.ohri.ca/patients for OHRI; www.ottawaheart.ca for UOHI.