DIRECTORATE RESEARCH & INNOVATION
JOINT CUHAS-BMC RESEARCH & ETHICS BOARD

SAMPLE OF INFORMED CONSENT FORM FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

Adapt the following form to fit the circumstances of your own study. However, follow these main steps of the information sheet before getting the participant(s) to sign the consent form.

Information Sheet

✓ **Title of the study?**

✓ **Purpose of the Study?** As part of the requirements for [*degree*] at CUHAS, I [*Name*] have to carry out a research study. The study is concerned with [*keep it brief and simple – 1-2 sentences. There is no need to go into the theoretical complexities of the topic.*]

✓ **Why have you been asked to participate?** You have been asked because [*Because they will help to provide data for your study*].

✓ **What will the study involve and how long will you be in the study?** The study will involve… [*Indicate the procedure and time commitment, giving the simplest possible explanation and avoiding jargon and unnecessary detail.*]

✓ **Do you have to take part?** [*The answer is no! – participation is voluntary. Explain about signing a consent form. People selected should be told that they have the option of withdrawing or discontinuing at any time before and during data collection.*]

✓ **Will your participation in the study be kept confidential?** [*Yes! - but remember, there's no such thing as absolute confidentiality – Usually the relevant term is <u>anonymity</u> rather than confidentiality. E.g.* Yes. I will ensure that no clues to your identity appear in the thesis. Any extracts from what you say that are quoted in the thesis will be entirely anonymous.

✓ **What will happen to the data collected?** [*Kept confidential from third parties (including workers' superiors, if relevant]; will it be destroyed after a period?*

✓ **What will happen to the results?** [*For example:*] The results will be presented in my thesis. The study may be published in a scientific journal.

✓ **What are the possible benefits/ disadvantages of taking part?** [*If you think there are none, say so, but not in a black-and-white way. If they may feel distressed, mention the possibility and refer to the next section].*

✓ **What if there is a problem?** At the end of the interview [/procedure],if you subsequently feel distressed, you should contact…[*e.g. the investigator, give contact details - or the Director of Research and Innovation*].

✓ **Who has reviewed this study?** [*CUHAS-BMC Joint Ethics Committee]*

✓ **Who can answer your questions about this study?** If you need any further information, you can contact me: [*Name, mobile number, email address].*

If you agree to take part in the study, please sign the consent form hereafter.

Consent form

I…[**name of participant**]……agree to participate in [***name of the PI***]'s research study.

I have read the information sheet and understood the purpose and nature of the study.

I am participating voluntarily.

I understand that I can withdraw from the study, without repercussions, at any time, whether before it starts or while I am participating.

I understand that anonymity will be ensured in the write-up by disguising my identity.

I understand that the data collected can be used for scientific publication.

Name:……..

Signature: ……. Date……..

Witnessed by..... Signature.....

Statement by the researcher/person taking consent

I have accurately read out the information sheet to the potential participant, and to the best of my ability made sure that the participant understands what will be done.
I confirm that the participant was given an opportunity to ask questions about the study, and all the questions asked by the participant have been answered correctly and to the best of my ability. I confirm that the individual has not been coerced into giving consent, and the consent has been given freely and voluntarily.
Name of the researcher/person taking consent:……..

Signature:…… Date:…….