

# What is Informed Consent Before Surgery?



## Patient Education

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Before agreeing to undergo surgery, your surgeon will thoroughly explain the procedure to you and give you the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have. This discussion includes the reason for surgery, the benefits and risks involved, alternatives to surgery and what you can expect following the surgery.

If, after this discussion, you would like to move forward with surgery you will be asked to sign an informed consent form when you come to the hospital. The informed consent form includes the name of your surgeon, the surgery you are undergoing and the side of the body on which the surgery will be done, if applicable.

Depending on your surgery, you may be asked to sign a consent for blood products and/or a consent for implant tracking. Please read the consent form carefully before signing it, and ask your surgeon or the nurses witnessing your signature if you have any further questions or need more information.

## For Non-Emergency Health Information and Services:

- HealthLinkBC  
Tel: 8.1.1 from anywhere in BC.  
Tel: 7.1.1 for deaf and hearing-impaired assistance (TTY)  
Web: [www.HealthLinkBC.ca](http://www.HealthLinkBC.ca)

**The information in this handout is intended only for the person it was given to by the healthcare team. It does not replace the advice or directions given to you by your doctor.**