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Risks associated with operating during the Coronavirus pandemic

The purpose of this form is to explain to you that the risks generally associated with your operation and anaesthetic may be increased during the coronavirus pandemic. If you are concerned about having your operation during this time, please discuss it with your doctor as soon as you can.

About Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2 or Covid-19) and its impact on you and your operation

1. There is a viral pandemic of the disease Covid-19 (also called Coronavirus or SARS-Cov-2) in South Africa.
2. This Coronavirus affects mostly the respiratory system but can have a serious effect on your whole body. It may result in death.
3. This Coronavirus is very contagious, which means that it is easy to catch the virus from others.
4. People who have this Coronavirus may not know they are infected (asymptomatic). This means that you can catch the virus from people who do not show any symptoms.
5. If you have been screened (asked questions) and/or tested negative you may still be infected with the virus. On average the test misses 3 out of 10 infected patients.
6. Your medical team cannot know whether you are or, will become infected with this Coronavirus.
7. If you are infected or become infected with this Coronavirus during or after your operation, you may have a more severe reaction to the disease. You may have a higher risk of dying from the disease than people who did not recently have an operation.
8. Other illnesses, chronic conditions and the older you are, increases your risks with this Coronavirus.
9. There is at present no known treatment for this virus.
10. To lower the chances of you being exposed to the coronavirus in hospital, you may be discharged earlier than usual but at a time still considered safe by your medical care team.

Your informed consent

I _____ confirm all the following:

1. I have read and understood the information as explained in this form and
2. I understand that I might already have or may get Coronavirus at the hospital.
3. I accept additional risks of having my operation during the Coronavirus/Covid-19 pandemic.
4. My surgeon has informed me that Coronavirus is not the only risk associated with my operation.
5. If I notice symptoms of this Coronavirus (such as but not limited to fever, chills, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, loss of sense of smell, change in taste, muscle pains, chest pain) or I am worried that I may be infected, I will seek medical attention.

Signature Patient/Parent or Guardian Date

Date: _____