

Simplified Assent Form Language Toolkit

One of the most challenging aspects of writing an assent form for children is describing the procedures in a way that is understandable to the youngest study participants. This toolkit includes wording for describing complex procedures to minors.

How To Read This Document

This guide shows the study-related term in **bold** (for example, "**Biomarker**"), followed by how to describe that concept in an assent form for pediatric readers ("A biomarker is something in your blood. It can show how a medicine affects you").

Consent Form
term or procedure

— **Biomarker**

Sample explanation
for pediatric participants

— A biomarker is something in your blood. It can show how a medicine affects you.

Biomarker

A biomarker is something in your blood. It can show how a medicine affects you.

Biopsy

A biopsy is a sample of some cells, or a small piece of tissue. The doctor uses a special needle to take a sample from your <<organ>>.

Bronchoscopy

A bronchoscopy: A doctor looks inside your lungs using a tube. The tube has a camera and a light at the end. The doctor will spray medicine in your throat first to help make sure you don't feel pain. Then he will slide the tube down your throat.

Catheterization

The doctor will put a thin tube in a vein your leg.

Contrast dye

A dye to help the doctor see your <<organ>> better.

CT scan

A CT scan helps doctors spot certain problems and illnesses. The scan is like a more detailed x-ray. You may have an injection of dye. The dye makes the pictures clearer. You lie down on a special table, which passes through a giant machine. You have to lie very still. During the scan, you can talk to the doctor through a microphone.

continued on back →

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Dialysis

Dialysis does the filtering job that your kidney normally does. A dialysis machine is like an artificial kidney. A needle is put into your arm. Blood passes through the tube. The tube runs into the dialysis machine. The filtered blood comes out of the other side of the machine. The blood goes back into your body through a different tube and needle. It takes a few hours.

ECG

An ECG shows how your heart is beating. Small pads are stuck onto your arms, legs and chest. Wires from the pads are connected to the ECG machine.

EEG

An EEG shows how your brain is working. Small pads will be attached to your scalp. Wires from the pads are connected to the EEG machine.

Endoscopy

Endoscopy lets doctors take pictures of your insides. The doctor will probably give you a medicine to make you relaxed or sleepy. A tube will be passed into your body. This will be through your mouth, nose, or bottom, depending on what part of the body the doctor needs to see from the inside.

General anesthetic

A medicine to make sure you don't feel pain during an operation.

Genetic testing

The doctor will test your genes. Genes are things in your <<cells, blood>> that make you different from anyone else. Some genes control the color of your hair or eyes. Other genes could make you more likely to get a disease like <<condition>>.

Hormone

Hormones are messengers. They tell cells in your body what to do. Hormones control many things in your body, like when you feel hungry or full, how you sleep, and how you grow.

Injection

A shot with a needle.

Local anesthetic

A shot to numb your <<body part>> before the operation.

MRI

An MRI uses a very strong magnet to take detailed pictures of your insides. Before the MRI, you have to remove metal objects from your body, like jewelry or hairclips. You may have an injection of dye. The dye makes the pictures clearer. You lie on a table in a machine. It's like a short tunnel, open at both ends. You have to lie very still. The machine can be very loud. You will have headphones to block the noise.

Placebo

A <<pill, gel, syrup>> that has no medicine in it.

Sedative

A medicine to make you relaxed or sleepy.

Ultrasound

An ultrasound uses sound waves to look inside your body. You will lie on a table. The doctor will put some gel on your <<body part>>. The doctor will then slide the scanner back and forth across your <<body part>>.

X-ray

An x-ray takes pictures of the inside of your body. X-rays can give your doctor info about your <<bones, joints, heart>>. You have to sit very still.

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