Appendix K

**ASSENT FORM: FOR MINORS**

This template to assist you with designing a written informed assent form for minors (persons under the age of 18 years old). **Please write in SIMPLE, NON-TECHNICAL, CHILD-FRIENDLY language**. Note that this assent form template is appropriate for use for child participants aged between 8-13 years old. For adolescents (aged between 14-17 years old), please use the adult consent form template.

The text written in [*RED*] is for **guidance only** and should be removed before finalising the document. Also, this information box should be deleted before the document is finalised.

**ASSENT FORM FOR MINORS**

**TITLE OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT**: *Insert the title of your research project in simple, non-technical language.*

**RESEARCHERS’ NAME(S):**

**RESEARCHERS’ CONTACT NUMBER**:



**What is a research study?**

Research studies help us learn new things. We can test new ideas. First, we ask a question. Then we try to find the answer.

This paper talks about our research and the choice that you have to take part in it. We want you to ask us any questions that you have. You can ask questions any time.

**Important things to know…**

You get to decide if you want to take part.

You can say ‘No’ or you can say ‘Yes’.

No one will be upset if you say ‘No’.

If you say ‘Yes’, you can always say ‘No’ later.

You can say ‘No’ at any time.

We would still take good care of you no matter what you decide.

**Why are we doing this research?**

We are doing this research to find out more about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Explain your project in simple child friendly language. Adapt the information to the age of the children that you plan to include.*

**Why have I been invited to take part in this research project?**

 *Answer this question in simple language*

**Who is doing the research?**

*Identify yourself and explain whom you work for and/or why you are doing the project*

**What will happen to me in this study?**

*Describe what the participant will be expected to do. Describe all procedures using simple language. Some examples are given below*

*If you decide to be in the research, we would ask you to do the following:*

* *Blood draws: You may need a needle poke so we could test some of your blood. If possible, we will try to get blood without a new poke.*
* *Questions: We would ask you to read questions on a piece of paper. Then you would mark your answers on the paper.*
* *Talking: A person on the research team would ask you questions. Then you would say your answers aloud.*
* *Medical records: We will look at your past doctor visits and use information about your care.*

**Can anything bad happen to me?**

*Explain any possible risks to the child, using simple terms. If something might be scary or anxiety provoking, state this in the assent form.*

**Can anything good happen to me?**

*Only describe known benefits to the participant and don’t overstate the benefits. You may include any possible future benefits to others. If there are no known benefits, state so.*

**What else should I know about this research?**

*If you do not want to be in the study, you do not have to be.*

*It is also OK to say yes and change your mind later. You can stop at any time. If you want to stop, please tell the researcher.*

*You can say ‘no’ to what we ask you to do for the research at any time and we will stop.*

**Will anyone know I am in the study?**

*Explain in simple terms that the child’s participation in the study will be kept confidential, but information about him/her will be given to the study supervisor. (NOTE: This information may not be applicable in assent forms for very young children).*

**Who can I talk to about the study?** *List those individuals the child can contact (including their contact details) if he/she has any questions or has any problems related to the study.*

**What if I do not want to do this?**

*Explain to the child that he/she can refuse to take part even if their parents have agreed to their participation. Explain that they can stop being in the study at any time without getting in trouble.*

**Do you have any other questions?**

If you want to be in the research after we talk, please write your name below. We will write our name too. This shows we talked about the research and that you want to take part.

Do you understand this research study and are you willing to take part in it?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| YES |  | NO |

Has the researcher answered all your questions?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| YES |  | NO |

Do you understand that you can STOP being in the study at any time?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| YES |  | NO |

**Name of Participant** **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

(To be written by child/adolescent)

**Printed Name of Researcher**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Researcher** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**  **Time**

References:

1. www.sun.ac.za

2. <http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/healthresearch/documents/assent.pdf>