

Ten questions to ask the researcher during the informed consent process

1. Why am I being asked to participate in the research study? Do I have to participate?
2. What if the researcher does not share my cultural beliefs or speak my primary language?
3. What if I feel pressured to participate because the researcher is also my boss or my professor/teacher/mentor?
4. What if I feel pressured to participate because the researcher is also my doctor?
5. If I decide not to participate in a research study, what are my other choices? What other medical treatments or procedures can I receive, besides the ones being tested in this research study? How do my other choices compare with this study?
6. How will this study help me? If it won't help me, why might I still want to participate?
7. What exactly will happen to me if I decide to participate? How many extra visits to UVa will this require of me?
8. An experimental drug is a new drug that has never been used before. An experimental drug might also be an existing drug that is given for a brand new reason. How do I know if taking this experimental drug is safe for me? How much is known about safety?
9. Could I get hurt by being in this research study?
10. Will there be any costs to me? Will any of the treatment be free? Will insurance cover the rest?