PATIENT AGREEMENT TO SYSTEMIC ANTI-CANCER THERAPY: Imatinib

NAME OF PROPOSED COURSE OF TREATMENT (include brief explanation if medical term not clear)

☐ Imatinib for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML).

☐ Tablets are taken orally once a day. Treatment is continued until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity.

WHERE THE TREATMENT WILL BE GIVEN:

☐ outpatient ☐ day unit/case ☐ inpatient ☐ other: ______________________

STATEMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONAL (to be filled in by health professional with appropriate knowledge of proposed procedure, as specified in the hospital/Trust’s consent policy)

I have explained the procedure/treatment to the patient. In particular, I have explained:

☑ all relevant boxes

THE INTENDED BENEFITS

☐ To obtain or maintain remission of your leukaemia, in order to improve both quality and quantity of life.
STATEMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONAL  

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:
More than 10 in every 100 (>10%) people have one or more of the side effects listed:

- Anaemia (low red blood cells), low blood platelet counts and low white blood cell counts.
- Diarrhoea, feeling sick (nausea) and being sick (vomiting), abdominal (tummy) pain, headache, tiredness and feeling weak (fatigue), muscle, bone and joint pain, and fluid retention (you may notice you gain weight and/or your ankles and legs swell).
- Skin changes; including rashes, dryness, itchy skin, darkening of the skin, peeling of the skin, raised patches on the skin, increased sensitivity to sunlight, and ulcers.
- Red eye; you may notice blood covering some of the white part of the eye (subconjunctival haemorrhage).

OCCASIONAL SIDE EFFECTS:
Between 1 and 10 in every 100 (1-10%) people have one or more of these effects:

- If you have a low white blood cell count, you have an increased risk of getting an infection. If you have a severe infection this can be life threatening. Contact your doctor or hospital straight away if:
  - your temperature goes over 37.5°C (99.5°F) or over 38°C (100.4°F), depending on the advice given by your chemotherapy team
  - you suddenly feel unwell (even with a normal temperature)
- Taste changes, dry mouth, eye problems (blurred vision, watery eyes), shortness of breath, constipation, dizziness, sleep disturbances, and abnormalities of tests in liver function.

OTHER RISKS:
- There may be a very rare risk of tumour lysis syndrome in the presence of a high tumour burden (high number of cancer cells). Symptoms are caused by the breakdown of cancer cells when treatment is started, releasing cell contents into the bloodstream, causing changes in blood electrolytes. Patients who are at a high risk will be prescribed medicines to reduce the risk of complications.
- Allopurinol may be prescribed to prevent gout if you are at risk, and taking imatinib soon after diagnosis.
- Rare side effects include changes to the lungs, problems with the heart and changes in kidney function tests.
- Hepatitis B viral (HBV) infection may be reactivated during or after treatment with imatinib. You may be a chronic carrier of the virus or have had an active HBV infection in the past. Reactivation may occur even with a resolved HBV infection status.
- Some anti-cancer medicines can damage women’s ovaries and men’s sperm. At present there is no evidence that this occurs with imatinib.
- Imatinib may damage the development of a baby in the womb. It is important not to become pregnant while you are having treatment. It is important for women to use effective contraception during treatment. You can talk to your doctor or nurse about this.
- If you are due to have surgery for reasons other than CML, it is important to consult your doctor about the suitability of taking imatinib, before, during and after your surgical procedure.
- The side effects of imatinib are usually mild or moderate. Very rarely complications of treatment can be severe or life-threatening. The risks are different for every individual. You can talk to your doctor or nurse about what this means for you.
I have discussed what the treatment is likely to involve (including inpatient / outpatient treatment, timing of the treatment, blood and any additional tests, follow-up appointments etc) and location.

I have discussed the intended benefits and risks of any available alternative treatments (including no treatment) and any particular concerns of this patient.

THE FOLLOWING LEAFLET HAS BEEN PROVIDED:

☐ Information leaflet for imatinib.
☐ 24 hour chemotherapy service contact details
☐ Other, please state: __________________________

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
Name (PRINT): ___________________________ Job title: ___________________________

STATEMENT OF INTERPRETER (where appropriate)

INTERPRETER BOOKING REFERENCE (if applicable): ___________________________

I have interpreted the information above to the patient to the best of my ability and in a way in which I believe s/he can understand.

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
Name (PRINT): ___________________________ Job title: ___________________________
STATEMENT OF PATIENT

Please read this form carefully. If your treatment has been planned in advance, you should already have your own copy of the form which describes the benefits and risks of the proposed treatment. If not, you will be offered a copy now. If you have any further questions, do ask – we are here to help you. You have the right to change your mind at any time, including after you have signed this form.

I agree to the procedure and course of treatment described on this form.

I understand that you cannot give me a guarantee that a particular person will perform the procedure. The person will, however, have appropriate training and experience.

I understand that any procedure in addition to those described on this form will only be carried out if it is necessary to save my life or to prevent serious harm to my health.

I have been told about additional procedures which may become necessary during my treatment. I have listed below any procedures which I do not wish to be carried out without further discussion:

A witness should sign below if the patient is unable to sign but has indicated his or her consent. Young people/children may also like a parent to sign here (see notes).

Patient’s signature: ___________________________  Date: ___________________________

Name (PRINT): ___________________________

A witness should sign below if the patient is unable to sign but has indicated his or her consent. Young people/children may also like a parent to sign here (see notes).

Parent’s/Witness’ signature: ___________________________  Date: ___________________________

Name (PRINT): ___________________________

COPY ACCEPTED BY PATIENT: YES / NO

(please circle)

CONFIRMATION OF CONSENT

(health professional to complete when the patient attends for treatment, if the patient has signed the form in advance)

On behalf of the team treating the patient, I have confirmed with the patient that s/he has no further questions and wishes the procedure to go ahead.

Signed: ___________________________

Date: ___________________________

Name (PRINT): ___________________________

Job title: ___________________________

IMPORTANT NOTES: (tick if applicable)

☐ See also advance decision to refuse treatment

☐ Patient has withdrawn consent

(ask patient to sign /date here)

Signed: ___________________________

Date: ___________________________

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

CONTACT DETAILS (if patient wishes to discuss options later):

Contact your hospital team if you have any questions about cancer and treatment.

Cancer Research UK can also help answer your questions about cancer and treatment. If you want to talk in confidence, call our information nurses on freephone 0808 800 4040, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Alternatively visit www.cruk.org for more information.

These forms have been produced by Guy’s and St. Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust as part of a national project to support clinicians in ensuring all patients are fully informed when consenting to SACT. The project is supported by Cancer Research UK. This does not mean you are taking part in a clinical trial.

TO BE RETAINED IN PATIENT NOTES

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Approved by: Janine Mansi (UK Chemotherapy Board)

Check www.cancerresearchuk.org for latest version
GUIDANCE FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
(to be read in conjunction with the hospital’s consent policy)

WHAT A CONSENT FORM IS FOR
This form documents the patient’s agreement to go ahead with the investigation or treatment you have proposed. It is not a legal waiver – if patients, for example, do not receive enough information on which to base their decision, then the consent may not be valid, even though the form has been signed. Patients are also entitled to change their mind after signing the form, if they retain capacity to do so. The form should act as an aide-memoir to health professionals and patients, by providing a checklist of the kind of information patients should be offered, and by enabling the patient to have a written record of the main points discussed. In no way, however, should the written information provided for the patient be regarded as a substitute for face-to-face discussions with the patient.

THE LAW ON CONSENT
See the Department of Health’s Reference guide to consent for examination or treatment 2nd Edition for a comprehensive summary of the law on consent (also available at www.doh.gov.uk).

WHO CAN GIVE CONSENT
Everyone aged 16 or over is presumed to have the capacity to give consent for themselves, unless the opposite is demonstrated. If a child under the age of 16 has “sufficient understanding and intelligence to enable him or her to understand fully what is proposed”, then he or she will have capacity to give consent for himself or herself. Young people aged 16 and 17, and younger children with capacity, may therefore sign this form for themselves, but may like a parent to countersign as well. If the child is not able to give consent for himself or herself, someone with parental responsibility may do so on their behalf and a separate form is available for this purpose. Even where a child is able to give consent for himself or herself, you should always involve those with parental responsibility in making their own decision, before concluding that they are unable to do so.

WHEN NOT TO USE THIS FORM
If the patient is 18 or over and lacks the capacity to give consent, you should use an alternative form (form for adults who lack the capacity to consent to investigation or treatment) instead of this form. A patient lacks capacity if they have an impairment of the mind or brain or disturbance affecting the way their mind or brain works and they cannot:
• understand information about the decision to be made
• retain that information in their mind
• use or weigh this information as a part of their decision making process, or
• communicate their decision (by talking, using sign language or any other means)

You should always take all reasonable steps (for example involving more specialist colleagues) to support a patient in making their own decision, before concluding that they are unable to do so.

Relatives cannot be asked to sign a form on behalf of an adult who lacks capacity to consent for themselves, unless they have been given the authority to do so under a Lasting Power of Attorney or as a court deputy.

INFORMATION
Information about what the treatment will involve, its benefits and risks (including side-effects and complications) and the alternatives to the particular procedure proposed, is crucial for patients when making up their minds. The courts have stated that patients should be told about ‘significant risks which would affect the judgement of a reasonable patient’. ‘Significant’ has not been legally defined, but the GMC requires doctors to tell patients about ‘significant, unavoidable or frequently occurring’ risks. In addition if patients make clear they have particular concerns about certain kinds of risk, you should make sure they are informed about these risks, even if they are very small or rare. You should always answer questions honestly. Sometimes, patients may make it clear that they do not want to have any information about the options, but want you to decide on their behalf. In such circumstances, you should do your best to ensure that the patient receives at least very basic information about what is proposed. Where information is refused, you should document this on the consent form or in the patient’s notes.

REFERENCES
1. Summary of Product Characteristics (SPCs) for individual drugs: https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/
4. Guy’s and St. Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, Chemotherapy consent forms.