PATIENT AGREEMENT TO SYSTEMIC ANTI-CANCER THERAPY: EC-Paclitaxel

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

☐ EC (epirubicin and cyclophosphamide) chemotherapy, followed by paclitaxel chemotherapy for the treatment of breast cancer.

☐ Epirubicin and cyclophosphamide will be given intravenously on day 1, every 21 days for 4 cycles, followed by paclitaxel given intravenously on day 1, every 21 days for 4 cycles*. OR Paclitaxel will be given intravenously on day 1, every 21 days for 4 cycles, followed by epirubicin and cyclophosphamide given intravenously on day 1, every 21 days for 4 cycles*. (*delete as appropriate)

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

☐ CURATIVE – to give you the best possible chance of being cured.

☐ DISEASE CONTROL/PALLIATIVE – the aim is not to cure but to control or shrink the disease.

☐ ADJUVANT – therapy given after surgery to reduce the risk of the cancer coming back.

☐ NEO-ADJUVANT – therapy given before surgery/radiotherapy to shrink the cancer, allow radical treatment and reduce the risk of the cancer coming back.
STATEMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONAL (continued)

SIGNIFICANT, UNAVOIDABLE OR FREQUENTLY OCCURRING RISKS

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

☐ EC: Hair loss, feeling sick (nausea) and being
sick (vomiting), bruising or bleeding, anaemia
(low number of red blood cells), taste changes,
discoloured urine, skin changes, tiredness and
feeling weak (fatigue), and loss of appetite.

☐ EC and paclitaxel: An increased risk of getting an
infection from a drop in white blood cells - it is
harder to fight infections and you can become
very ill.

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)

☐ Paclitaxel: Diarrhoea, feeling sick (nausea) and
being sick (vomiting), sore mouth and ulcers,
taste changes, anaemia (low number of red
blood cells), hair loss, bruising or bleeding,
tiredness and feeling weak (fatigue), skin changes,
numbness or tingling in the hands and feet,
aching or pain in joints and muscles, headaches,
and low blood pressure during treatment.

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

☐ EC: Darkening of the skin or an itchy rash. Brown
markings can occur in the skin following the line
of the vein where the chemotherapy is injected.
If you’ve had radiotherapy (either recently or in
the past), the area that was treated may become
red or sore.

☐ EC: Allergic reactions, changes in the way your
heart works, irritation of the bladder lining,
diarrhoea, sore eyes, sore mouth and ulcers and
nail changes.

☐ Changes in heart rate, abdominal pain and your
liver may be temporarily affected

OTHER RISKS:

☐ Epirubicin or paclitaxel may leak outside of
the vein while it is being given; this is called
extravasation. If this happens when you’re
having epirubicin or paclitaxel it can damage
the tissue around the vein. Tell the nurse straight
away if you have any stinging, pain, redness or
swelling around the vein. Extravasation is not
common but if it happens it’s important that it’s
dealt with quickly.

☐ Paclitaxel may cause an allergic reaction while it’s
being given. You will have medicines before your
treatment to help prevent this.

☐ Late effects include a very rare chance of a
second cancer and problems with your heart.
Changes in lung tissue may lead to a cough or
breathlessness developing in the future.

☐ Cancer can increase your risk of developing a
blood clot (thrombosis), and having treatment
with anti-cancer medicines may increase this risk
further. A blood clot may cause pain, redness
and swelling in a leg, or breathlessness and chest
pain - you must tell your doctor straight away if
you have any of these symptoms.

☐ Some anti-cancer medicines can damage
women’s ovaries and men’s sperm. This may
lead to infertility in men and women and/or early
menopause in women.

☐ Some anti-cancer medicines may damage
the development of a baby in the womb. It is
important not to become pregnant or father a
child while you are having treatment and for up
to 12 months afterwards. It is important to use
effective contraception during and for up to 12
months after treatment. You can talk to your
doctor or nurse about this.

☐ Very rarely complications of treatment with anti-
cancer medicines can be life-threatening or even
result in death. The risks are different for every
individual. You can talk to your doctor or nurse
about what this means for you.

TO BE RETAINED IN PATIENT NOTES
Prepared by: Rena Chauhan
Checked by Pharmacist: Melanie Dalby
Checked by Consultant: Anne Rigg
Date of issue and version: May-16; Version 1;
Review date: May-19
Approved by: Janine Mansi (National Chemotherapy Board)
Check www.cancerresearchuk.org for latest version
STATEMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONAL (continued)

ANY OTHER RISKS:

☐ 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/TAPE HAS BEEN PROVIDED:

☐ Information leaflets for EC chemotherapy and/or for the individual drugs (epirubicin and cyclophosphamide) and paclitaxel.

☐ 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:

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.

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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. 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 disturbed 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.

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

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.