GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR USE IN PREPARING INFORMED CONSENT DOCUMENTS

A

ABDOMEN The part of the body that contains the stomach, liver, kidneys and some other organs.

ABSORB Take up fluids; take into the body

ACIDOSIS Condition when the blood contains more acid than normal

ACUITY Clearness, keenness, especially of vision, hearing

ACUTE New, recent, sudden

ADENOPATHY Swollen lymph nodes

ADJUVANT Helpful, assisting, aiding

ADJUVANT TREATMENT Added treatment

ADVERSE EFFECT Side effect of a drug that is undesirable; examples include discomfort or harm to an organ or tissue

ALLERGIC REACTION May include rash, trouble breathing, fever, and/or diarrhea

AMBULATE/-ATION/-ORY Walk, able to walk

ANAPHYLAXIS Serious, potentially life threatening allergic reaction including reduced blood pressure and difficulty breathing that may result in death

ANEMIA Decreased red blood cells; low red blood cell counts that can cause tiredness or fatigue

ANESTHETIC (general) A drug or agent used to produce unconsciousness and to decrease the feeling of pain; it puts you to sleep to allow surgery

ANESTHETIC (local) A drug or agent used to numb an area of your body to permit surgery or biopsy

ANGINA Chest pain from too little blood flow to the heart

ANGINA PECTORIS Chest pain from too little blood flow to the heart

ANOREXIA Condition in which individual will not eat; lack of appetite

ANTECUBITAL Area inside the elbow

ANTIBIOTIC Drug that kills bacteria and other germs
**ANTIBODY** Protein made in the body in response to foreign substance attacks the foreign substance and protects you from infection

**ANTICONVULSANT** Drug used to prevent or treat seizures

**ANTILIPIDEMIC** A drug that decreases the level of fat(s) in the blood

**ANTIMICROBIAL** Drug that kills bacteria and other germs

**ANTIRETROVIRAL** Drug used to treat HIV or other diseases caused by viruses

**ANTIVIRAL** Drug used to treat diseases caused by viruses

**ANTITUSSIVE** A drug used to reduce coughing

**ARRHYTHMIA** Any change from the normal heartbeat (abnormal heartbeat)

**ASPIRATION** Material entering the lungs following vomiting

**ASSAY** Lab test

**ASSESS** To learn about; evaluate

**ASTHMA** A lung disease associated with narrowing of the breathing passages in the lungs

**ASYMPTOMATIC** Without symptoms

**AXILLA** Armpit

**B**

**BENIGN** Not harmful, usually without serious consequences, but with some exceptions, e.g., benign brain tumor may have serious consequences

**B.I.D.** Twice a day

**BINDING/BOUND** Carried by, stuck together, transported

**BIOAVAILABILITY** The portion of a drug that enters the blood (relates to drugs taken by mouth)

**BLOOD PROFILE** Series of blood tests

**BOLUS** An amount given all at once

**BONE MASS/DENSITY** The amount of calcium in a given amount of bone

**BRADYARRHYTHMIAS** Slow, irregular heartbeats

**BRADYCARDIA** Slow heartbeat
BRONCHOALVEOLAR LAVAGE Wash out part of the lung with salt water to obtain lung cells for laboratory tests

BRONCHOSCOPY Insertion of a flexible tube through the nose and voice box to examine the inside of the lung

BRONCHOSPASM Narrowing of the breathing passages of the lung causing difficulty breathing and wheezing

CARCINOGENIC Capable of causing cancer

CARCINOMA Type of cancer

CARDIAC Refers to the heart

CARDIOVERSION Return of normal heartbeat by electric shock or drugs

CATHETER A tube inserted into the body for withdrawing or introducing fluids (i.e. a Foley)

CATHETER (indwelling epidural) A tube placed near the nerves in the spinal cord used to administer anesthesia during an operation

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM (CNS) Brain and spinal cord

CEREBRAL TRAUMA Damage to the brain

CESSATION Stopping

CHEMOTHERAPY Treatment of disease, usually cancer, by drugs

CHRONIC Continuing for a long time

CISPLATIN A drug used to kill cancer cells

CLINICAL Referring to medical care

CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT Of major importance for treating or evaluating patients

CLINICAL TRIAL An experiment involving patients

COGNITIVE TESTS Tests of thinking abilities

COMA Unconscious state (cannot be awakened)

COMPLETE RESPONSE Total disappearance of disease

CONGENITAL Occurring before birth; being born with a particular problem
CONJUNCTIVITIS Irritation and redness of the thin membrane covering the eye

CONSOLIDATION PHASE Treatment phase intended to make a remission permanent follows induction

CONTRAINDICATED Should not be used

CONTROL Healthy volunteer; a person without the disorder or disease

CONTROLLED TRIAL Study in which the experimental treatment or procedure is compared to a standard (control) treatment or procedure

COOPERATIVE GROUP Association of multiple hospitals and doctors to perform clinical trials together

CORONARY Refers to the blood vessels that supply the heart

CORONARY HEART DISEASE Hardening of the arteries of the heart

CT SCAN (CAT) (computerized tomography) Computerized series of x-rays

CULTURE Test for infection or germs that could cause infection

CUMULATIVE Total sum of individual events, experiences, treatments

CUTANEOUS Relating to the skin

CVA (cerebrovascular accident) Stroke

D

DERMATOLOGIC Related to the skin

DIASTOLIC Lower number in blood pressure reading

DISTAL Toward the end, away from the center of the body

DIURETIC “Water pill” or drug that causes an increase in urination

DOPPLER Sound waves

DOUBLE BLIND Study in which neither investigators nor subjects know what drug the subject is receiving

DYSFUNCTION Improper function; poor function

DYSPLASIA Abnormal cells
ECHOCARDIOGRAM  Sound wave test of the heart

EDEMA  Increased fluid in body tissues; swelling

EEG (electroencephalogram)  Recording of the electric waves in the brain

EFFICACY  Effectiveness; how well something works

ELECTROCARDIOGRAM (ECG or EKG)  Electrical tracing of heartbeat

ELECTROLYTE IMBALANCE  Imbalance of minerals in the blood (i.e. potassium, sodium)

ELEVATION OF LIVER  Evidence of abnormal liver function, evidence of liver

FUNCTION TESTS  damage

EMESIS  Vomiting

EMPIRIC  Based on experience

ENDOSCOPIC  Insertion of a flexible tube with a light to examine an

EXAMINATION  internal part of the body

ENTERAL  Given through the stomach or intestines

EPIDEMIOLOGIC  Referring to the study of the distribution and population

characteristics of diseases

EPIDURAL  A tube placed near the nerves in the spinal cord used to administer

anesthesia during operation

ERADICATE  Get rid of (such as a disease)

EVALUATE  Assess; examine for a condition or state

EXTERNAL  Outside the body

EXTRAVASATE  To leak outside of a blood vessel

FDA  U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the branch of the federal government, which

approves new drugs

FIBRILLATION  Irregular beat of the heart or other muscle

FIBROUS  Having many fibers, as in scar tissue.
G

GASTROINTESTINAL Relating to the stomach and intestines

GENERAL ANESTHESIA A drug or agent used to produce unconsciousness and to decrease the feeling of pain; it puts you to sleep to allow surgery

GESTATIONAL Related to pregnancy

GLUCOSE A sugar

GOUT A disease that causes a painful inflammation of the joints

H

HEMATOCRIT Amount of red blood cells in the blood

HEMATOMA A bruise; a black and blue mark

HEMODYNAMIC MEASURING Measuring of blood flow

HEMOGLOBIN A substance in the blood that carries oxygen

HEMOLYSIS Breakdown of red blood cells

HEPARIN LOCK A plastic tube filled with blood thinner that is placed in a vein to give injections or take out blood

HEPATIC Refers to the liver

HEPATOMA Cancer or tumor of the liver

HERITABLE DISEASE A disease that can be transmitted to one's children

HISTOPATHOLOGIC Pertaining to the microscopic view of diseased tissues or cells

HOLTER MONITOR A portable machine for recording heartbeats over a period of time

HYPERCALCEMIA Increased level of calcium in the blood

HYPERKALEMIA Increased level of potassium in the blood

HYPERNATREMIA Increased level of sodium in the blood

HYPERTENSION High blood pressure

HYPOCALCEMIA Reduced level of calcium in the blood

HYPOKALEMIA Reduced level of potassium in the blood

HYPONATREMIA Reduced level of sodium in the blood
HYPOTENSION  Low blood pressure

HYPOXEMIA  A decrease of oxygen in the blood

HYPOXIA  A decrease of oxygen in the blood

I

IATROGENIC  Caused by a physician or by the treatment

IDE  Investigational device exemption, the license to test an unapproved new medical device

IDIOPATHIC  A disorder for which the cause is unknown

ILLICIT DRUGS/ SUBSTANCES  Illegal drugs

IMMUNE SYSTEM  The system in the body that reacts to foreign or occasionally one’s own proteins

IMMUNOGLOBULIN  A substance produced by the body that binds to a foreign substance

IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE  Drug which reduces the body’s immune response, used in transplantation and diseases caused by disordered immunity

IMMUNOTHERAPY  Use of drugs to help the body’s immune (protective) system; usually used to destroy cancer cells

IMPAIRED FUNCTION  Abnormal function

IMPLANTED  Placed inside the body

IND  Investigational new drug, the license to test an unapproved new drug

INDUCTION PHASE  Beginning phase or stage of a treatment

INDURATION  Hardening

INDWELLING  Remaining in place in body, such as a catheter

INFARCT  Death of tissue because of lack of blood supply

INFECTION DISEASE  Disease that is transmitted from one person to another

INFLAMMATION  Swelling that is generally painful, red and warm

INFUSION  Introduction of a substance into the body, usually into the blood through a vein
INGESTION Eating; taking by mouth

INTERFERON An agent, which acts against viruses, an antiviral agent

INTERMITTENT Occurring between two time points (regularly or irregularly), alternately stopping and starting

INTERNAL Inside the body

INTERIOR On the inside

INTRAMUSCULAR Into the muscle; within the muscle

INTRAPERITONEAL Inside the abdomen

INTRATHecal Injected into the space around the spinal cord

INTRAVENOUS (IV) Injected into a vein

INTRAVESICAL In the bladder

INTUBATION (TRACHEAL) The placement of a tube into the throat (trachea) to assist breathing

INVASIVE PROCEDURE Puncture, opening or cutting of the skin

INVESTIGATIONAL A method which has not been proven to be of benefit or a

METHOD Method that has not been accepted as standard care

ISCHEMIA Decreased oxygen in a tissue (usually because of decreased blood flow)

LETHARGY Sleepiness

LEUKOPENIA Low white blood cell count which can increase the possibility of infection

LIPID CONTENT Fat content in the blood

LIPID PROFILE Fat and cholesterol levels in the blood

LOCAL ANESTHESIA A drug or agent used to numb an area of your body to permit surgery or biopsy

LOCALIZED Restricted to one area; limited to one area

LUMEN The cavity of an organ or tube (e.g., blood vessel)

LYMPHANGIOGRAPHY An x-ray of the lymph nodes or tissues after injection of dye in lymph vessels (e.g., in feet)
LYMPOCYTE  A type of white blood cell important in immunity and defense against infection

LYMPHOMA  A cancer of the lymph nodes (or tissues)

LUMBAR PUNCTURE (SPINAL TAP)  Placement of a needle between the bones in the back to remove some of the fluid around the spinal cord

M  

MALAISE  A vague feeling of bodily discomfort; feeling bad

MALFUNCTION  Not functioning properly

MALIGNANCY  Cancer or other progressively enlarging and spreading tumor, usually fatal if not successfully treated

MEDULLOBLASTOMA  A type of brain tumor

MEGALOBLASTOSIS  Change in red blood cells

METABOLIZE  Process of breaking down substances in cells to obtain energy

METASTASIS  Spread of cancer cells from one part of the body to another

MI  Myocardial infarction; heart attack

MINIMAL  Slight

MINIMIZE  Reduce

MONITOR  Check on; keep track of; watch carefully

MOBILITY  Ease of movement

MORBIDITY  Undesired result or complication

MORTALITY  Death or death rate

MOTILITY  The ability to move

MRI  Magnetic resonance imaging, body pictures created using magnetic rather than x-ray energy

MUCOSA/ MUCOUS MEMBRANE  Moist lining of digestive, respiratory, reproductive, and urinary tracts

MYALGIA  Muscle aches
MYOCARDIAL Referring to the heart
MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION Heart attack

N

NASOGASTRIC TUBE Tube that goes through the nose into the stomach
NCI National Cancer Institute
NECROSIS Death of tissue
NEONATAL Referring to the newborn period
NEOPLASIA Tumor, may be benign or malignant
NEUROBLASTOMA A cancer of the nerve tissue
NEUROLOGICAL Related to the nervous system
NEUTROPENIA Decrease in the main part of the white blood cells
NIH National Institutes of Health
NON-INVASIVE Not breaking, cutting or entering the skin
NORMAL SUBJECT Healthy volunteer
NOSOCOMIAL PNEUMONIA Pneumonia acquired in the hospital

O

OCCLUSION Closing; obstruction
ONCOLOGY The study of tumors or cancer
OPHTHALMIC Referring to the eye
OPTIMAL Best; most favorable or desirable
ORAL ADMINISTRATION By mouth
ORTHOPEDIC Referring to the bones
OSTEOPETROSIS Rare bone disorder characterized by dense bone
OSTEOPOROSIS Softening of the bones
OVARIES Female sex glands; female organs that release eggs
PARENTERAL Injection of a drug into a vein or into the skin

PATENCY Condition of being open

PATHOGENESIS The mechanism of causing a disease

PERCUTANEOUS Through the skin

PERFORATION A tear or a hole

PERINATAL Referring to the pregnancy and newborn period

PER OS (PO) By mouth

PHARMACOKINETICS The study of the way the body absorbs, distributes, metabolizes, and gets rid of a drug

PHASE I Initial study of a new drug in humans to determine the limits of its tolerance and its safety

PHASE II Second phase of a study of a new drug intended to obtain initial Information

PHASE III Large scale trials to confirm and expand information on safety and usefulness of a new drug

PHLEBITIS Irritation or inflammation of the vein

PLACEBO A substance with no active medication

PLACEBO EFFECT Improvement observed when a placebo is given

PLATELETS Small particles in the blood that help with clotting

POST-OPERATIVE After surgery

POTENTIATE Increase or multiply the effect of a drug or toxin by administration of another drug or toxin at the same time

POTENTIATOR An agent that helps another agent work better

PRENATAL Before birth

PRE-OPERATIVE Before surgery

PRN As needed

PROPHYLAXIS A drug given to prevent disease or infection

PROGNOSIS Chances for recovery
PROGRESSES Worsens; gets worse

PRONE Lying on the stomach

PROSPECTIVE STUDY Study following patients forward in time

PROSTHESIS Artificial limbs, such as arms and legs

PROTOCOL Plan of study

PROXIMAL Closer to the center of the body, away from the end

PULMONARY Referring to the lungs

Q

Q.D. Everyday

Q.I.D. Four times a day

R

RADIATION THERAPY X-ray or cobalt treatment

RANDOM By chance

RANDOMIZATION Chance selection, like flipping a coin

RBC Red blood cell

RECOMBINANT Formation of new combinations of genes resulting from the manipulation of genes in the laboratory

RECONSTITUTION Putting back together the original parts or elements; For Drugs: Preparation of a drug for administration by adding liquid to a dry, powdered drug

RECUR Happen again; return

REFRACTORY Not responding to treatment

REGIMEN Pattern of administering treatment

REGENERATION Regrowth of a structure or of lost tissue

RELAPSE The return of a disease

REMISSION Disappearance of evidence of cancer or other disease

RENAL Referring to the kidneys
REPLICABLE Possible to duplicate

RESECT Remove or cut out surgically

RESOLVE Go away

RETROSPECTIVE STUDY Study looking back over past experience

SARCOMA A type of cancer

SEDATIVE A drug to calm or make less anxious

SEDATION A medicine to make someone calm, sleepy or less anxious

SEIZURES Intense (very strong) uncontrollable movements

SEMINOMA A type of cancer of the testes

SEQUELAE A condition that occurs as a consequence of a disease

SEQUENTIAL In a row

SERUM Part of the blood without red or white blood cells or platelets

SOFTWARE Computer program

SOMNOLENCE Sleepiness

SPIROMETRY/PULMONARY FUNCTION TESTING Measurement of how well you breathe and how well your lungs function

STAGING Determining the extent of a disease

STANDARD OF CARE The kind of treatment that the majority of doctors would agree is appropriate; the usual type of treatment

STENOSIS Narrowing (of a duct, tube, or one of the heart valves)

STOMATITIS Mouth sore; inflammation of the mouth

STRATIFY Arrange into groups for analysis of results (e.g. by age, sex)

STUPOR Stunned state in which it is difficult to get a response or the attention of the subject

SUBCLAVIAN Under the collarbone

SUBCUTANEOUS Under the skin
SUPINE Lying on the back

SUPPORTIVE CARE Care aimed at relieving the symptoms and not intended to improve or cure the underlying disease

SYMPTOMATIC Having symptoms (complaints related to the body)

SYNDROME A condition characterized by a set of symptoms

SYSTOLIC Higher number in blood pressure reading

T

TERATOGENIC Capable of causing malformations (abnormalities) in the unborn fetus

TERMINATE Stop

TESTES Male sex glands; male organs which produce sperm

THORACIC Relating to the chest

THROMBOCYTOPENIA A condition in which there is an abnormally small amount of platelets in the blood

THROMBOSIS Blood clot

T.I.D. Three times a day

TITRATION Gradual change of drug dose to determine the strength of the drug that is best

T LYMPHOCYTES Types of white blood cells involved in immune reactions

TOPICAL Surface; on the skin

TOPICAL ANESTHETIC Placed on an area of the skin to decrease pain in the area it is applied

TOXICITY An unwanted side effect resulting in injury to a tissue or organ

TOXICOLOGY TEST A test for illegal drugs, chemicals or poisons

TRANSDERMAL Through the skin

TRANSIENT Lasting or staying only a short time

TRAUMA Injury; wound

TREADMILL Walking machine often used to determine heart function
U

UPTAKE The taking in of a substance by a living tissue

V

VALVULOPLASTY A method of repairing a valve in the heart

VARICES Enlarged veins, usually in legs or the lining of the tube between the mouth and stomach (esophagus)

VASOSPASM Narrowing of blood vessels due to spasm of the muscle in the blood vessels

VENIPUNCTURE Putting a needle in a blood vessel to draw blood

VERTICAL TRANSMISSION Spread of a disease, as from mother to baby

W

WBC White blood cell