Example Template (Adapted from BASS Consent SARS-CoV-2)

**Information for Patients Undergoing Implant Surgery During the Coronavirus Pandemic**

Your Surgeon / Pain Physician has recommended spinal cord stimulator / deep brain stimulator / Intrathecal Pump Implant for the treatment of your pain.

They should have discussed with you all the options including non-operative treatments and the risks / benefits of delaying implant surgery.

In addition to the usual risks and benefits of the surgery, it is important that you are made aware of specific risks during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and certain precautions you need to take before and after your surgery as recommended by your medical team.

You will come in contact with members of staff who could unknowingly be carrying coronavirus. Equally you could be infected but not yet showing symptoms.

Most hospitals will ask you to self-isolate and undergo COVID test you prior to planned surgery and postpone surgery if you test positive. There may be circumstances where the clinical urgency of your condition means that surgery will be offered despite your infection status not being known.

There are reports stating that if you have an operation with coronavirus in your system (even without symptoms) there is a significant risk that you could end up being ill with coronavirus and may need intensive care treatment. There is even a significant risk of death if this happens. Even if you do not have the coronavirus in your system you still have above risk but it is thought to be less. However, because you are in a hospital environment, your risk of catching coronavirus may increase.

We are learning about the coronavirus all the time. There may be some risks that we are not aware of yet that may also affect your outcome from surgery.

In light of the information above, if you decide to delay treatment your consultant will discuss alternative options at this time.

If you decide to go ahead, we require you to sign this form indicating that you have read it, understood it and have no further questions.

*I confirm I have read the information above, I understood it and I have no further questions.*

Name of patient

Name of person taking consent

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

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COVID-19 Risk Stratification

a. Very High Risk. Defined as:
   i. Have had an organ transplant.
   ii. Are having chemotherapy or antibody treatment for cancer, including immunotherapy.
   iii. Are having an intense course of radiotherapy (radical radiotherapy) for lung cancer.
   iv. Are having targeted cancer treatments that can affect the immune system (such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors).
   v. Have blood or bone marrow cancer (such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma).
   vi. Have had a bone marrow or stem cell transplant in the past 6 months, or are still taking immunosuppressant medicine.
   vii. Have been told by a doctor that you have a severe lung condition (such as cystic fibrosis, severe asthma or severe COPD).
   viii. Have a condition that means you have a very high risk of getting infections (such as SCID or sickle cell).
   ix. Are taking medicine that makes you much more likely to get infections (such as high doses of steroids).
   x. Have a serious heart condition and you're pregnant.
   xi. If you're at very high risk from coronavirus, you should have received a letter from the NHS.

b. High Risk. Defined as:
   i. Are 70 or older.
   ii. Are pregnant.
   iii. Have a learning disability, a lung condition that's not severe (such as asthma, COPD, emphysema or bronchitis), heart disease (such as heart failure), high blood pressure (hypertension), diabetes, chronic kidney disease and/or liver disease (such as hepatitis).
   iv. Have a condition affecting your brain or nerves (such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis, or cerebral palsy).
   v. Have a problem with your spleen or have had your spleen removed.
   vi. Have a condition that means you have a high risk of getting infections (such as HIV, lupus or scleroderma).
   vii. Are taking medicine that can affect your immune system (such as low doses of steroids).
   viii. Are very obese (a BMI of 40 or above).

c. Low Risk: All other patients