

D.S. 30/71



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CA-NEFU

Secretaries of Regional Hospital Boards
 Secretaries of Boards of Governors
 Secretaries of Hospital Management Committees

Your reference

Our reference

H/P9/5
Date

2 February 1971

CANCELLED

- - MAR 1989

Dear Secretary

CONSENT FORMS FOR OPERATIONS

1. The Department has discussed model consent forms with the British Medical Association, the Medical Defence Union, the Medical Protection Society, and the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland.
2. As a result, agreement has been reached on a standard consent form for use in the generality of medical and dental procedures for which consent is required; this form, a copy of the agreed text of which is attached, is that now recommended by the three medical defence societies. It is proposed to issue a standard version of the form in the HMR Series, and authorities will be notified separately about the arrangements in due course.
3. There is, of course, no objection to the use of special consent forms for particular purposes (eg in connection with primary sterilisation procedures) either adapted from the standard form or specially designed for the purpose, as advised by the appropriate medical defence society.
4. It is important that the question of obtaining a signature to a consent form should not be allowed to become an end in itself. The most important aspect of any consent procedure must always be the duty to explain to a patient or relative the nature and purpose of the proposed operation and to obtain a fully informed consent.

Yours faithfully

A F Taggart

Copies for information to SAMOs.