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 internal part of the body
EXAMINATION 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

INFECTIOUS 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 chord

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)
LYMPHOCYTE 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

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/ Mois tlining of digestive, respiratory, reproductive, and urinary tracts

MUCOUS MEMBRANE 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