Frequently Asked Questions: Patient Advisor Consent Form

*Patient Advisors within the Patient Engaged Research Center (PERC) are now being asked to complete our new official **consent form**.*

WHAT PROMPTED THIS NEW FORM?

Henry Ford Health (HFH) compliance approached the PERC team and stated that Patient Advisors are required to undergo additional screening in order to volunteer for the health system, to comply with federal and state healthcare policies. The screening process that compliance initially requested involved collecting personal information from Advisors such as social security numbers (SSN). To keep our promise to Patient Advisors when they joined the Program, we developed an alternative plan that **does not** require you to provide your SSN. This is why we have developed the consent form that was approved by the HFH Institutional Review Board (IRB).

WHAT IS A CONSENT FORM?

A consent form is an official document that outlines information on a study and/or program and is intended for potential participants to decide whether to move forward and participate or not based on an explanation of the study/program and the nature of the participation that is requested of them. The consent form you are being asked to complete has IRB required sections that have been tailored to the Patient Advisor Program.

WHAT IS IRB?

IRB stands for **I**nstitutional **R**eview **B**oard. IRB is a committee established to review and approve research involving human subjects. The purpose of the IRB is to ensure that all human subject research is conducted in accordance with all federal, institutional, and ethical guidelines. This consent form has been approved by HFH IRB.

WHY DOES THE CONSENT FORM REFER THE PATIENT ADVISOR PROGRAM AS A "RESEARCH STUDY/PROJECT"?

While the Patient Advisor Program is not a "research study or project" as a whole, PERC does provide opportunities to participate in research studies such as surveys, focus groups, interviews and other opportunities to provide feedback on research. Completing this Patient Advisor consent form allows us to continue to offer these opportunities to all Advisors. The term "research study" and "research project" is a term commonly used by IRB. When we refer to these terms in the consent form, we are referring to the Patient Advisor Program.

PATIENT ENGAGED RESEARCH CENTER

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WHY DOES THE CONSENT FORM REFER TO PATIENT ADVISORS AS "PARTICIPANTS"?

The term "participant" is commonly used in research and is defined as an individual who takes part in something. In this consent form you may see that we have referred to Patient Advisors as participants of the Patient Engaged Research Center. This is general verbiage that is used by IRB. **You are a Patient Advisor.**

I ALREADY FILLED OUT A CONFIDENTIALITY FORM WHEN I JOINED. DO I HAVE TO COMPLETE THIS PORTION OF THE CONSENT?

YES. This new consent form is IRB approved and all sections are required to be completed. We very much appreciate your time filling out this form. This new consent form will replace our original confidentiality form for future Patient Advisors that join the Program.

WHAT IS A PI?

A PI is a Principal Investigator. Every research project/study has a lead who is the PI. Dr. Sara Santarossa is the Scientific Director of PERC and serves as the "PI" mentioned in the consent form.

DO I HAVE TO COMPLETE THIS FORM?

Participation is voluntary and the only alternative is to not be a Patient Advisor and not partake in the Patient Advisor Program. **If you do not complete this form, we will be forced to remove you from your role as a Patient Advisor**. **This is a requirement of PERC in order to comply with HFH policies**.

Still have questions?

Contact PERC: *PERCPTAdvisors@hfhs.org* or 313-874-6243

Join our **virtual Q&A session**. Follow the details in your email.