The informed consent process involves information being shared between a patient or research participant* and the doctor or researcher. The patient or research participant has a right to be informed, but he/she also has a responsibility to ask questions. The doctor or researcher has the responsibility to conduct ethical care or research and the responsibility to be honest about all aspects of the medical or research process.

*Research participants are sometimes referred to as Human Subjects.

### Patient and Participant Rights and Responsibilities

- Have your questions answered to your satisfaction **BEFORE** you agree to treatment or to participate as a research participant.
- Understand the purpose of the treatment/research you are agreeing to.
- Understand you can refuse treatment and you can refuse to participate in the research project.
- Understand you can stop treatment or withdraw from the research project after it has started.**
- You have a right to privacy.

**see “How to withdraw informed consent”**

### Doctor and Researcher Responsibilities

- Discuss the purpose of the treatment or research.
- Provide patient/research participant with enough time to consider whether he/she wants to take part in the treatment or join the research project.
- Do not force or strongly influence a patient/participant to take part in a treatment or join a research project.
- Discuss the risks and benefits of participating in the treatment or research.
- Respect the privacy of the patient/research participant.
- Adhere to and honor the ethical guidelines established for human subject research when conducting studies.