

UVA UPDATES ABORTION CONSENT FORM

Adds “paralysis, cardiac arrest, brain damage, and/or death” as risks, leaves out any mention of ultrasounds now required by state law, and continues to avoid any mention of preterm birth and other complications.

The University of Virginia Health System has recently updated and changed the surgical abortion consent form that it provides to mothers. While this is certainly welcome news given the medical dishonesty and violations of informed consent featured in their [old consent form created in 2004](#), their new [2012 document](#) remains nearly as dishonest and incomplete regarding both proven and plausible risks as the previous one.

First and foremost, UVA continues to keep its students and other patients completely in the dark regarding how effective abortion is at causing needless preterm births, extremely preterm births, low birth weight, placenta previa, and placenta accreta later in life. We featured these in [our response to UVA this past March](#), and the link to extremely preterm births was confirmed yet again in a [major published scientific study](#) this past August. In a country whose preterm birth rate has *doubled* since infanticide in utero was legalized in Virginia in 1970, the continuing omission of these medical facts remains UVA’s most heinous violation of scientific honesty and informed consent. Countless children are already living lives needlessly burdened with many developmental disabilities such as cerebral palsy, and countless other mothers and children alike have simply died tragically early deaths as a result of these very serious complications.

UVA’s latest abortion consent form has added warnings that the abortions which they have been providing inside their state funded hospital for 21 years “may result in paralysis, cardiac arrest, brain damage, and/or death.” While we are glad to see these additions, we decry the fact that these risks are not written in the same capitalized, bold, and underlined font as the additional risks listed directly after them.

We question the reasons behind this addition, which may include the possibility of severe complications and/or the death of a mother during an abortion inside UVA Hospital. It is reasonable to suspect that this addition was made for legal security, and we are endeavoring to obtain more information regarding this from the Virginia Department of Health.

In addition to the proven risks of abortion that UVA continues to ignore, their new consent form also continues to avoid any mention of other, plausible risks which this needless, violent procedure poses to the mother - including psychological problems, drug abuse, and suicide. Just two months ago, yet [another huge, published study](#) again concluded that “Compared to women who delivered, women who had an early or late abortion had significantly higher mortality rates within 1 through 10 years.” Yet UVA has decided instead to retain its earlier nonsense by promoting “the benefits of the procedure(s)” while at the same time referring to keeping a healthy and growing baby alive in utero as a “related risk(s).”

As if these violations of the long standing laws governing medicine in Virginia were not enough, UVA has also decided not to include notice of the new state law requiring the performance of an ultrasound before the commencement of an abortion. A ‘fetal transabdominal ultrasound’ scan has been required by law since the passing of House Bill 462 on March 7 of this year, which amended and reenacted [§ 18.2-76 of the Code of Virginia](#) relating to the ultrasound requirement as part of informed consent for abortion. Clear notice of this, as well as the ‘opportunity to view the ultrasound image, receive a printed copy of the ultrasound image and hear the fetal heart tones,’ certainly ought to be included in UVA’s abortion consent form.

UVA’s new abortion consent form is clearly not an honest or forthright endeavor to improve upon their previous document and provide their students and other patients with the full range and breadth of medical information. We demand that the consent form be rewritten to include all the dangers and risks – both proven and plausible – posed by abortion to women and children, and that all of these should be written in the same capitalized, bold, and underlined font as a portion of them currently are. We also demand that clear notice be given therein of the legal requirement that an ultrasound be performed and the results thereof be offered to the mother, according to § 18.2-76 of the Code of Virginia. It’s long since time that the UVA Health System returned to being an organization that both embraced and communicated all of the medical and scientific facts to all of its patients irrespective of its political agenda.

UVA’S URL’S:

3/31/2004 CONSENT FORM

<http://web.archive.org/web/20060908112411>

3/5/2012 CONSENT FORM

<http://www.virginia.edu/uvaprint/HSC/pdf/040360.pdf>

OUR URL’S:

3/31/2004 CONSENT FORM

<http://uvalies.org/2004%20UVA%20abortion%20consent%20form>

3/5/2012 CONSENT FORM

<http://uvalies.org/2012%20UVA%20abortion%20consent%20form>

This document was submitted by the Managing Board of the Human Rights and Scientific Honesty Initiative, University of Virginia - on October 11, 2012.