UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

Bannatyne Campus Research Ethics Boards
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Basic Elements of Consent Disclosure Statements For Survey Research

When research involves the collection of anonymous data via a survey the researcher is not required to obtain written evidence of consent however, he or she must provide participants with appropriate information on the study. The researcher may develop a document that follows the University of Manitoba Bannatyne Campus consent template with the signature section deleted or provide an explanatory letter/e-mail in lieu of a consent template. This document should include the consent disclosure statements listed below.

When participants are directed to conduct the survey via an internet site (e.g. survey monkey) a consent disclosure statement should precede the survey.

1. A brief statement that the survey is part of a “research study”.

2. A brief statement regarding the purpose of the research and who is performing it.

3. A statement regarding research procedures. Explain that the study involves answering a series of questions and will take a specific length of time that should be specified e.g. 15 minutes.

4. A statement regarding any foreseeable risks. These might include tiring from answering questions or being asked sensitive questions. If there are no risks, this should be indicated.

5. A statement regarding anticipated benefits. Describe the potential benefits of the knowledge to be gained and any benefits for participants. If there are no benefits to participants, this should be indicated.

6. A statement that participation is voluntary. IF the study concerns patients or potential patients, it should state that failure to participate will not adversely affect the care of the participant.

7. A statement regarding provisions to maintain the confidentiality of the data. If conducting a survey on-line, indicate whether the researcher will be able to track the respondent’s e-mail address.

8. The consent statement need be no more than 6 to 8 sentences in length. It should be formatted in a manner that deletes any section headings.

9. Willingness of the participants to complete the survey will serve as adequate evidence of informed consent.

10. Add a ‘version date’ to either the top or bottom of the survey.