

## SUPPLEMENT 1

This is a short anonymous survey. The survey WILL NOT AFFECT YOUR CARE. It is NOT PART OF YOUR MEDICAL RECORD. The scenarios are IMAGINARY and HYPOTHETICAL. Please answer 23 simple questions to help us improve how we explain the risks of surgery to patients.

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1. AGE (years)?

2. SEX ( ✓ one)?

3. ETHNIC GROUP ( ✓ one):

4. HIGHEST EDUCATION LEVEL ( ✓ one):

5. ARE YOU HAVING SURGERY? ( ✓ one):

If yes, is the surgery within a few weeks/months? ( ✓ one)?

If yes, are you on the ward awaiting planned surgery ( ✓ one)?

If yes, are you on the ward awaiting urgent surgery ( ✓ one)?

If yes, is your surgery ( ✓ one)?

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### HOSPITAL-ASSOCIATED RISK 1: Computer Problem

**Imagine** that the surgeon cannot adequately display your scans during surgery. Surgeons look at the scans during surgery to check they are on the correct site, find an abnormality, avoid damaging structures next to the abnormality etc. Your operation can go ahead but with higher risk. ( ✓ one in each row)

	YES Definitely	YES Probably	DON'T KNOW	NO Probably	NO Definitely
6. I would like to be informed about these risks before surgery					
7. Knowing these risks will influence my decision about having surgery					
8. Knowing these risks, I will delay surgery until the problem is sorted					
9. Knowing these risks, I will explore having surgery in another hospital					
10. Knowing these risks, I will ask to discuss with a hospital manager responsible for scan displays before having surgery					
11. Knowing these risks, I will ask to discuss with the surgeon before having surgery					

### HOSPITAL-ASSOCIATED RISK 2: Equipment Problem

**Imagine** that certain surgical equipment is not available, for example a wound drain. The operation can go ahead, the surgeon may use an alternative or no drain, but with higher risk of developing a blood clot in the wound that may cause nerve damage. (one ✓ in each row)

	YES Definitely	YES Probably	DON'T KNOW	NO Probably	NO Definitely
12. I would like to be informed about these risks before surgery					
13. Knowing these risks will influence my decision about having surgery					
14. Knowing these risks, I will delay surgery until the problem is sorted					
15. Knowing these risks, I will explore having surgery in another hospital					
16. Knowing these risks, I will ask to discuss with a hospital manager that deals with operating theatre equipment having surgery					
17. Knowing these risks, I will ask to discuss with the surgeon before having surgery					

### HOSPITAL-ASSOCIATED RISK 3: Bed Shortage or Lack of Operating Theatre Space

**Imagine** that the hospital has a bed shortage or lack of operating theatre availability and thus your surgery is rescheduled. The delay may increase the risk that you suffer nerve damage. (one ✓ in each row)

	YES Definitely	YES Probably	DON'T KNOW	NO Probably	NO Definitely
18. I would like to be informed about these risks before rescheduling					
19. Knowing these risks will influence my decision about accepting the delay					
20. Knowing these risks, I will ask to discuss with a hospital manager that deals with beds/operating theatres before rescheduling					
21. Knowing these risks, I will ask to discuss with the surgeon before rescheduling					

### SURGICAL RISKS AND HOSPITAL-ASSOCIATED RISKS

**Imagine** you are having a spinal operation with 2 – 3 % risk of a serious complication such as paralysis. You discussed with the surgeon the treatment options and the risks + benefits of surgery. It is impossible to give you an accurate % for the hospital-associated risks. You decided to have the surgery. (one ✓ in each row)

	YES Very	YES Little	DON'T KNOW	NO Not much	NO Not at all
22. Are you concerned about the surgical risks?					
23. Are you concerned about the hospital-associated risks 1 – 3					