

# MOH'S

## REPLY TO

# SMA'S LETTER

SMA's letter published in the *Straits Times Forum* was reprinted in the June 2015 issue of *SMA News* (<https://goo.gl/N1OGjC>). The sample template patient consent form (reproduced below) was sent to licensees/managers of licensed healthcare institutions (HCIs) on 11 May 2015 (ref: MH 71:25/5-28).



Annex A

Patient Consent Form (Sample Template)

Name and MRCGP of Patient	
Name of procedure/treatment to be performed	
Date of procedure/treatment to be performed	
Indication(s) for procedure/treatment	
Name and MCR no. of doctor (who performed the procedure/treatment)	
Signature of doctor	
Benefit(s) of the procedure/treatment	
Possible risk(s)/side effect(s)/complication(s)	
<b>To be completed by the patient</b>	
I am aware of the mentioned benefit(s) and possible risk(s)/side effect(s)/complication(s) of the _____ (name of the procedure/treatment) received. Upon giving my consent to receiving the _____ (name of the procedure/treatment) received, I understand and agree to be contacted and interviewed by authorized officer(s) from the Ministry of Health to assess the outcome of the procedure/treatment.	
Signature of patient	
Date	

An alternative form was made available by MOH on 28 July 2015 and is available at <https://goo.gl/5yoSgp>.

### PATIENT AUTONOMY IN AUDITS: MOH REPLIES

*This letter was first published in the Straits Times Forum page on 18 June 2015.*

The Ministry of Health (MOH) thanks the Singapore Medical Association (SMA) for its feedback ("Patient autonomy key part of medical ethics"; June 4).

As SMA president Wong Tien Hua said, MOH has powers under the Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act to audit any patient's clinical outcomes, should the need arise.

Our medical audits enable MOH to monitor and uphold the high quality of care and safety of aesthetic procedures performed in Singapore.

Our intent in including this information in the consent template for medical practitioners and healthcare institutions is to give patients the opportunity to be informed of and to agree to participate in MOH's medical audits before they undergo aesthetic procedures.

In this way, situations whereby patients are surprised when they are contacted after undergoing the procedure are avoided.

Dr Wong's letter might have given the impression that the patient must consent to participate in the audit for the treatment to proceed. This is not so. The patient's autonomy is not compromised in this process: Should the patient not agree to participate in any future audit of his aesthetic procedure, neither the patient nor the doctor is prohibited from undergoing or performing the procedure, respectively.

Before they undergo any aesthetic procedure, we urge the public to exercise due caution by ascertaining that the medical practitioners and healthcare institutions consulted are properly licensed and accredited to perform the desired procedures and treatments.

When in doubt, they should seek a second opinion from their regular family physician or other qualified medical practitioners.

**Ms Lim Bee Khim**

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Ministry of Health*