

# Dr Ralph Mobbs BSc(Med), MB, BS, MS, FRACS

## Neurosurgeon

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Specialising in:

**Spine Surgery: Minimally Invasive and Complex**

**Peripheral Nerve Surgery**

**General Neurosurgery**

**Motor Cortex and Vagal Stimulation**

**Neurosurgical Pain Management**

**Peripheral Nerve and Spinal Cord Stimulation**

Suite 3, Level 7, Prince of Wales Private Hospital

Barker Street, Randwick

Sydney, N.S.W., 2031

Australia

Phone:

61-2-9650-4766

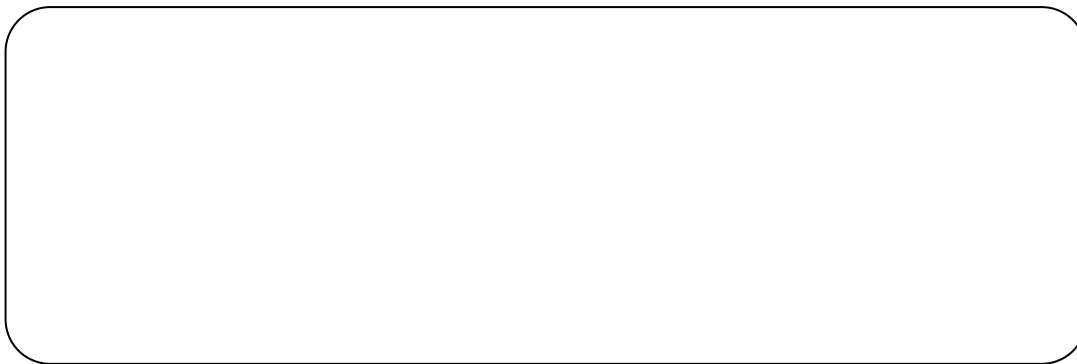
Fax:

61-2-9680-4943

Email:

[www.ralphmobbs.com](http://www.ralphmobbs.com)

## CONSENT FOR SURGICAL/INVASIVE PROCEDURE



Procedure:

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Please read each section, and initial every box after you have read and understood each section.

For your Operation to proceed – **this form must be completed and returned to Dr Mobbs' rooms:** Fax: 02 9680 4943 or Mail: Suite 3, Level 7, Prince of Wales Private Hospital, Randwick 2031, or returned in person to the above address.

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### What is informed consent?

No medical procedure is without risk. The main purpose of signing this form is to give consent to invasive actions. For this consent to be valid, you (the patient) must know exactly what you are consenting to. You must understand that there are risks and benefits of the proposed operation in order for you to make an informed decision about whether to have it. You must be aware of the frequent risks, and also about rarer risks if they are serious when they occur. Giving consent in the knowledge of these risks is called informed consent.

Initial Here:



## GENERAL RISKS OF A PROCEDURE

- (a) Small areas of the lungs may collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy.
- (b) Clots may form in the legs (deep vein thrombosis or DVT) with pain and swelling. Rarely part of this clot may break off and go to the lungs which can be fatal.
- (c) A heart attack may occur because of strain on the heart or a stroke.
- (d) Death is an unlikely, though possible outcome of ANY surgical procedure.

Initial Here:

## ANAESTHETIC RISKS OF A PROCEDURE

Risks of anaesthetics include:

- Reaction to the anaesthetic agent.
- Postoperative nausea & vomiting.
- Heart attack, chest infection or blood clots during surgery.

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If you have ANY questions, or know of ANY medical issues that may impact on your anaesthetic, you must discuss this with the Anaesthetist. The delivery of anaesthetics is performed by specialists in this field and therefore questions must be directed toward the appropriate Anaesthetist.

## RISKS OF PROCEDURE

(Not a comprehensive list – Dr Mobbs or Public Hospital Registrar will also discuss other risks of your specific surgery)

Initial Here:

Spinal Surgery:

- Infections either of the skin or deep in the wound.
- Damage to nerves or spinal cord.
- Damage to the surrounding membrane (Dura) with leak of spine fluid.
- Problems with the surgical approach to my spine, such as vocal problems and swelling with neck surgery, abdominal problems with lumbar surgery and lung problems with thoracic surgery.
- Bleeding following the surgery that may require urgent re-operation.
- Non-union if having a fusion operation, or further surgery if my spine is "unstable"

Neuro (Brain) Surgery:

- Infections either of the skin or deep in the wound (Meningitis).
- Bleeding following the surgery that may require urgent re-operation.
- Brain damage/ stroke to surrounding areas of your brain.
- Leakage of brain fluid from the wound that make require further surgery.

Peripheral Nerve Surgery

- Infections either of the skin or deep in the wound.
- Nerve pain following the procedure.
- Bleeding that may require further surgery.
- Worsening of nerve function.

Pain procedures/Injections/Nerve Blocks

- Infections of the skin or deep in the wound.
- Rarely, nerve or joint damage.
- No change in symptoms or worsening of symptoms.

## ANTICOAGULANTS

I understand that certain medications inhibit blood clotting ("thin the blood"). These include Aspirin, Solprin, Disprin, Asasantin, Clopidogral, Warfarin and many more. These medications must be stopped 2 weeks prior to spinal surgery, nerve surgery or neurosurgery. I will make/have made arrangements to stop my Anticoagulants prior to surgery, and to discuss this with my GP or physician. If you are unsure whether a medication you are taking is an anticoagulant, please see your GP to discuss.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

In accordance with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons' policy on Informed Consent, Dr Mobbs declares that he or his family members may from time to time have interests in relation to the proposed treatment: financial or non-financial interests in companies providing health services (hospitals, pathology, other medical services, etc), companies providing instruments / surgical implants (Medtronic – conference attendance & share ownership, Austspine – share ownership, Synthes – conference attendance, Stryker – conference attendance, DePuy (J&J)- share ownership and conference attendance, or research activities. The above declaration is made in the interest of transparency. Dr Mobbs' recommendation for treatment is based purely on clinical grounds and is not influenced in any way by the declared potential conflict of interest.

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## OTHER MEDICAL PROBLEMS

If you suffer with significant heart, lung or other problems, this needs to be reviewed prior to surgery. Your GP will assist with appropriate referral to a physician, heart or lung specialist for evaluation before your surgery. If you have had medical problems with previous operations, this must be discussed with your GP, and the Anaesthetist prior to surgery.

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## PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE

If you are a **private** patient, Dr Mobbs will perform your operation, and co-ordinate your post-operative care.

If you are a **public** patient, there is no guarantee who will perform the surgery. Dr Mobbs operates at the Prince of Wales Public Hospital, which is an accredited training facility. Trainee surgeons ("Registrars") will most likely perform your surgery and co-ordinate your post-operative care. It is a requirement that Registrars receive appropriate "hands-on" experience during their training period.

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Waiting times for **private** patients is 1-3 weeks (Private Hospital). To confirm dates, please speak with Dr Mobbs' secretary on 96504766.

Waiting times in the **public** system for Dr Mobbs is currently approx 12 months (Prince of Wales Public Hospital). Please contact the Public Hospital to confirm the current waiting times: 9382-2222.

## INFORMED FINANCIAL CONSENT (FOR PRIVATE PATIENTS)

Dr Mobbs charges AMA (Australian Medical Association) rates for most operations. The AMA fees represent a fair reflection of the considerable medical training (6 years), Junior Surgical training (4 years), General Neurosurgical training (5-7 years) and Subspecialty Neurosurgical and Spine training (1-2 years), which in

Initial Here:

total constitutes over 16 years. You must discuss fees and any out-of-pocket costs with the secretary (9650 4855) PRIOR to your operation.

### DOCTOR'S STATEMENT

I have explained

- the patient's condition
- options for treatment and their risks
- the procedure and the risks
- likely consequences if those risks occur
- the significant risks and problems specific to this patient.

I have given the patient/ substitute decision-maker an opportunity to

- ask questions about any of the above matters
- raise any other concerns

which I have answered as fully as possible. I am of the opinion that the patient/ substitute decision-maker understood the above information.

### PATIENT CONSENT

I acknowledge that:

The doctor has explained my medical condition and the proposed procedure. I understand the risks of the procedure, including the risks that are specific to me, and the likely outcomes. The doctor has explained other relevant treatment options and their associated risks. The doctor has explained my prognosis and the risks of not having the procedure.

I was able to ask questions and raise concerns with the doctor about my condition, the procedure and its risks, and my treatment options. My questions and concerns have been discussed and answered to my satisfaction.

I understand that the procedure may include a blood transfusion.

**PUBLIC PATIENTS: I understand that a doctor other than Dr Mobbs is likely to conduct the procedure. I understand this is likely to be a doctor undergoing training. Please contact the Public Hospital for current waiting times for Dr Mobbs' on 9382 2222.**

I understand that if organs or tissues are removed during the surgery, that these may be retained for tests for a period of time and then disposed of sensitively by the hospital. The doctor has explained to me that if immediate life-threatening events happen during the procedure, they will be treated accordingly. I understand that photographs or video footage may be taken during my operation. These may then be used for teaching health professionals. You will not be identified in any photo or video. I understand that no guarantee has been made that the procedure will improve the condition, and that the procedure may make my condition worse.

On the basis of the above statements, I REQUEST TO HAVE THE PROCEDURE.

**Signature:**

Date:

( Substitute Decision Maker: Under the Powers of Attorney Act 1998 and/ or the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000. If the patient is an adult and unable to give consent, an authorized decision- maker must give consent on the patient's behalf. )