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Patient Name: _____ DOB: _____  Chart #: _____ Surgeon: _____
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**CATARACT INFORMED CONSENT**

**Diagnosis**

You have been diagnosed with cataract(s) in your (please circle):

RIGHT EYE

LEFT EYE

BOTH EYES

**Surgery Described** - A cataract is a clouding of the normally clear, natural crystalline lens in your eye, most often due to the aging process but also due to eye trauma, heredity, diabetes, and even some medications. Cataract surgery removes this cloudy lens and replaces it with a new, clear artificial lens. The technique used by the physician is called Phacoemulsification or phaco. The physician will use a topical anesthesia placing drops on your eye (NO NEEDLE). The physician will insert a small ultrasonic probe into the eye, which breaks (emulsifies) the cloudy lens into tiny pieces and gently sucks (aspirates) those pieces out of the eye, requiring a small incision (NO STITCHES). Generally your vision is improved immediately following surgery and continues to improve over a few days.

**Risks** - Although cataract surgery is now routine and is one of the most successful surgical procedures performed today (about 95% of all cataract surgeries result in an improvement in vision), risks do exist. These include: loss of life, loss of the eye, and loss of the eye's sight.

**Complications** - The list of possible complications of any surgical procedure including cataract surgery is almost limitless, but fortunately all of these complications are rare. Among them are: hemorrhage, infection, problems with wound healing, rupture of the capsule of the lens, dislocation of the cataract, dislocation of the intraocular lens, retinal detachment, glaucoma, and loss of corneal clarity.

**Alternative to cataract surgery** - The alternative to cataract surgery is to continue to see poorly. There is seldom any reason to rush into surgery. Patients will usually get the same result whenever they have surgery.

**Benefit to cataract surgery** - The expected benefit to cataract surgery is improved vision. Cataract surgery will not relieve dry scratchy eyes or make the eyes feel better.

**Possibility of YAG laser procedure** - Routinely about half of the patients who have cataract surgery will eventually need a YAG laser procedure to further improve their vision. This is a painless procedure.

**Patient Statement** - I have read this Informed Consent (or it has been read to me). I have read the informational materials given to me and have had the opportunity to discuss all the above with the physician and everything I wished to talk about has been personally explained to me including details about my specific case and any way that it differs from a routine case of cataracts.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Patient Name/ Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Witness Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Physician Signature Date