

**Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina**  
1765 Dobbins Drive                      105 Newsom Street, Suite 101  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514                      Durham, NC 27704  
919-942-7762                                  919-286-2872

**Client Information for Informed Consent:**

**VASECTOMY**

Before having a vasectomy, you need to know the benefits, risks, and warning signs. We have listed them here for you to read. We are happy to answer any questions you have.

**Vasectomy is a method of birth control that is intended to be permanent.** Both of the tubes that carry sperm — the vas deferens — are blocked. If the procedure is successful, it is very unlikely that you will be able to cause pregnancy. In rare instances, a vas deferens reconnects on its own. If this happens, pregnancy can occur.

You **must** agree to give one or more specimens of your seminal fluid to a clinic for analysis following the operation. This is to check for the presence of sperm in your semen. You **must** use some other method of birth control until Planned Parenthood tells you that there are no longer any sperm in your seminal fluid.

Tests may be taken for certain sexually transmitted infections before the procedure. Reporting certain positive results to public health agencies may be required by law.

**BENEFITS**

- Vasectomy is highly effective. In the first year of use, 15 out of 10,000 women reported a pregnancy with a partner who had a vasectomy.
- It is intended to provide permanent birth control.
- No periodic health care visits are needed for contraception following sterilization.
- Some couples enjoy intercourse more because they are relieved of worries about unintended pregnancy.
- Nothing needs to be done daily, monthly, yearly, or just before intercourse to prevent unintended pregnancy.
- No hormones are involved.

**RISKS**

- **Inflammation/Infection** — Mild inflammation to serious infection or abscess may occur in the skin, vas deferens, or testicles. Treatment may include observation, antibiotics, or very rarely, surgical treatment.
- **Hematoma** — Blood clots or bruises usually clear up on their own. In some cases medical or surgical treatment is needed.
- **Adhesion** — Very rarely, skin attaches to the vas or a connection is formed between the vas and skin — a fistula. This may require surgery.
- **Hydrocele** — Fluid build-up in the scrotum may clear on its own, or it may need to be removed surgically.
- **Spermatic Granuloma** — Swelling caused by leakage of sperm from the vas deferens. Usually resolves on its own, or it may require drainage.
- **Pain** — There may be temporary discomfort or pain in the testicles. Very rarely, pain may be chronic and severe.

- **Recanalization** — The cut ends of a vas deferens may grow back together. Rarely, the tubes grow back together again and pregnancy may occur.
- **Sexual Problems** — Decreased sexual desire or inability to have an erection is reported in about four out of 1,000 cases. The most likely causes are emotional — there is no physical cause for sexual dysfunction associated with vasectomy.

No guarantee can be made about the outcome of the procedure. It is important that you understand its benefits, possible risks, complications, and warning signs. You will be responsible for paying for emergency medical care that cannot be provided by Planned Parenthood — even in the unlikely event that Planned Parenthood refers you to a hospital because of a complication.

Sterilization does not protect against sexually transmitted infection. If you or your partner have other sex partners, use a latex or female condom to reduce the risk of infection.

Vasectomy is intended to be permanent. Reversing a vasectomy is difficult and costly. Reversal is often unsuccessful, and causing a pregnancy may not be possible. A man **must** be certain that he wants to cause no future pregnancies before he chooses this method.

Planned Parenthood will continue to provide you with high quality medical care if you decide not to be sterilized at any time before the procedure. You will not lose any benefits that you are entitled to from programs or projects receiving Federal funds if you decide not to be sterilized.

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**EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER call the health center at (919) 942-7762  
or after hours the on-call clinician at (919) 818-8367**

Signature of Patient \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I witness the Patient received this information, said he read and understood it, and had an opportunity to ask questions.

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