

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN

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Client Information for Informed Consent

VASECTOMY

IF YOU DECIDE AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE OPERATION NOT TO BE STERILIZED, PLANNED PARENTHOOD WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH HIGH QUALITY MEDICAL CARE. IF YOU ARE ENTITLED TO BENEFITS PROVIDED BY PROGRAMS OR PROJECTS RECEIVING FEDERAL FUNDS, YOU WILL NOT LOSE ANY OF THESE BENEFITS IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO HAVE A VASECTOMY.

Before you have a vasectomy, be sure you understand the information. This **client information** sheet lists the possible problems that can happen with vasectomy and the danger signs you should watch for. If you have any questions as you read, we will be happy to talk about them with you.

When you have a vasectomy, the two vas deferens (the tubes that carry sperm) are blocked. If the procedure is successful, you will not be able to cause pregnancy in a female partner. Although the operation is intended to be permanent, there are instances of the tubes reconnecting on their own which may restore fertility. The result of sterility is not guaranteed.

The financial responsibility for emergency medical care not provided at Planned Parenthood is your own. Even if Planned Parenthood refers you to a hospital because of a complication, it will be your responsibility and not the responsibility of Planned Parenthood to arrange for payment of necessary fees.

The risks of vasectomy include:

- Inflammation or Infection--ranging from mild inflammation to a serious infection or abscess of the skin, vas deferens, or testicle. Treatment may include observation only, antibiotics, or, very rarely, surgical treatment;
- Hematoma--Blood clot or bruise that usually clears up by itself, but which may require medical or surgical treatment;
- Adhesion--Skin attaches to vas, or a connection forming between the vas and skin (called a fistula). This may require surgical correction;
- Hydrocele--Fluid build-up in the scrotum. This may clear on its own or the fluid may need to be removed surgically;
- Spermatic Granuloma--Swelling caused by leakage of sperm from the vas deferens. This usually resolves on its own or it may require drainage;
- Pain--Transient discomfort or pain in the testicles may be experienced from time to time;
- Recanalization--The growing back together of the cut ends of the vas, which may restore fertility. This problem is most likely to occur within the four-month period following the operation. Rarely, this occurs or is recognized at a later time;
- Sexual Problems--In about four cases in a thousand, decreased sexual desire or inability to have an erection is reported. Such problems are believed to be emotional, because there is no known way that the operation, itself, can cause them;

- Vasectomy and Cancer--A number of medical studies have looked at the relationship between vasectomy and the later development of prostate cancer. Two of these studies showed no relationship, while another two studies showed that there may be a weak link between vasectomy and later prostate cancer. ***Overall, all that can be said at this time is that taken as a whole, there is little evidence for a causal association between vasectomy and prostate cancer.*** All men between 50 and 70 years old, regardless of whether they have had a vasectomy, should be screened once a year for prostate cancer.

You **must** agree to give one or more specimens of your semen to the clinic following the operation. This is to check for the presence of sperm in your semen. Some form of birth control **must** be practiced until you are advised by Planned Parenthood there are no sperm.

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

Having a vasectomy does not protect against sexually transmitted infections. If you or your partner have other sexual partners, you should still use a latex condom to prevent infections, in addition to having had a vasectomy to prevent pregnancy.

Signature of Patient _____

Date _____

I witness the fact that the patient received the above mentioned information and said she/he read and understood same and had the opportunity to ask questions.

Signature of Witness _____

Date _____