

## Use of Thumb-print On Informed Consent Form

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1. If, after the informed consent process, a participant or the legal representative agrees to participate in a research study but is unable to sign on the consent form for valid reasons like illiteracy, dominant hand injury or paralysis, the signature required on the consent form can be substituted by the participant's or the legal representative's thumb-print.
2. This will be carried out in the presence of an impartial witness who will attest that the thumb-print is indeed that of the participant or legal representative and is printed voluntarily by the participant or legal representative.
3. The impartial witness is allowed to write the name of the participant or legal representative and date the consent form for the participant or legal representative. The impartial witness will also sign and personally writes his or her name and date at the witness section of the consent form.
4. In addition to the usual documentation of the informed consent process in the participant's medical records, the reason why participant or legal representative has to use the thumb-print instead of signature, and whether the left or right thumb has been used, will also be documented in the medical notes.
5. A copy of the signed ICF should be given to the participants.