**Patient Information Leaflet for DAS Difficult Airway Registry**

**Introduction**

Nearly 3 million general anaesthetics are given every year in the UK. As part of having a general anaesthetic, the anaesthetist needs to place an airway device into your windpipe (trachea) to make sure that oxygen continues to enter your body. This process is called airway management. This is a vital step in the process of anaesthesia as a lack of oxygen will result in severe consequences including brain damage and death.

Although the majority of anaesthetic procedures are straightforward, emergencies can occur with airway management which can cause serious harm. If during your anaesthetic there have been difficulties with managing the airway (Difficult or Challenging Airway) it is vital that life-saving information is made available for any future anaesthetics. Relevant medical information can be stored on a secure database which will enable anaesthetists or other doctors to review your history before you have any future anaesthetic procedures.

More information about airway management in anaesthesia is available from:

[https://das.uk.com/patient-information/](about:blank)

**What is the Difficult Airway Registry and how does it help me?**

This project makes sure that vital medical information about any difficulty encountered during your anaesthetic is available 24 hours a day if you need to have another anaesthetic, in any circumstances. Once you are registered on the DAS Difficult Airway Registry the medical information can be accessed securely by a registered medical practitioner in the UK, using your NHS number. Other identifiers are used in devolved countries and private hospitals.

If you require an anaesthetic in the future, you can let the anaesthetic doctor know that you are registered with the DAS Registry and they will be able to look up the details to help them plan the safest anaesthetic for you.

**How will my personal information be used?**

The primary use of the information is to make sure that you will have a safe anaesthetic the next time you need an operation or a procedure. Your personal details are kept in a secure system based in the United Kingdom that hosts many other national health registries.

**What information is available on the DAS Registry?**

Medical details about your anaesthetic and the difficulties identified will be entered into the secure DAS Registry. Only doctors registered in the UK with the GMC and also registered with DAS will be able to access this information.

**Will the data on the DAS Registry be used for any other purpose?**

We may also wish to use some parts of the medical information for research, however none of the identifiable personal details are ever used for this purpose. In order to conduct any research, the only information used is your age (not your date of birth) and gender at the time of the difficult airway incident.

Research projects are run to help anaesthetists identify what can make an anaesthetic difficult and to help them devise ways to make managing the airway safer. Doctors or researchers might be interested to look at:

* Details of the difficulty in managing the airway
* Equipment used to manage the airway
* Information about any particular physical condition that contributed to the difficult airway
* The type of surgery planned
* The types of special investigations carried out to help airway management

You can decide whether to allow this information to be used for research purposes by either opting in or out on the consent form. .

**Do I have to pay to be on the DAS Airway Registry?**

No – DAS sponsors the cost of running the Registry.

**Can I withdraw my consent in the future?**

Yes. You can withdraw from the DAS Airway Registry at any time by writing to us (Difficult Airway Society, 21 Portland Place, London, W1B 1PY, UK). All your details will be deleted from the Registry. The Data Protection Officer of DAS can be reached by [contact@das.uk.com](mailto:contact@das.uk.com) if you have any further questions about the data management.

**Where can I find more information?**

Please visit [www.das.uk.com/da](about:blank)r for further details of the Registry

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## Consent Form for DAS Difficult Airway Registry Entry

**I have discussed with (Name) …………………………………………………………………... about the National Difficult Airway Registry and they were provided with a patient information leaflet giving further details of the project.**

Name of Clinician …………………………………………………… GMC Number…………………………..

Designation and Institution…………………………………….

Signature ……………………………………….......................... Date ……………………………………….

I have read and understood the Patient Information provided to me relating to the DAS Difficult Airway Registry and

* **I consent to share my personal and clinical details with Difficult Airway Society (DAS).**
* **I understand that my personal details will be used only for contacting me in relation to the DAS Difficult Airway Registry**
* **I understand and consent for my clinical details to be securely stored by DAS in the Registry and only made available to clinicians, securely via the internet, to help with my clinical care.**
* **I understand that I will be able to withdraw this consent anytime if I wish to do so.**

**Optional**

* **I understand the data collected in this project could be used anonymously for research on airway management. I consent to use my anonymised data for research purposes.**

**☐ Yes ☐ No**

**Patient’s signature………………………….…………………**

**Name…………………………………………..**

**Date…………………………**