



I HAVE THE *Right* TO:

INFORMATION

My care provider is ethically and legally obligated to share with me the risks and potential benefits of any procedure he or she is suggesting, as well as the alternatives to that procedure—including doing nothing. I am entitled to information about anything that affects me or my baby.

SAY "YES" OR NO"

I am free to consent to or decline my care provider's advice about my care, without pressure, conditions, or threats. My right to say "no"—on behalf of myself or of my baby—is one of my most basic rights over my body and the baby I represent.

Everyone has the right to informed consent and refusal in their health care, including during pregnancy and birth. That means my care provider must give me full information about the risks, benefits, and alternatives to any procedures they are suggesting, and must respect my decision to accept or decline their advice. My right to refuse treatment (to say "no") is strongly upheld by human rights laws, U.S. courts, and ethical guidelines for healthcare professionals.

American Congress of Obstetricians & Gynecologists Committee on Ethics Opinion No. 439, Aug. 2009, "Informed Consent"; Opinion No. 390, Dec. 2007 "Ethical Decision Making in Obstetrics and Gynecology"; and Opinion #664, Jun. 2016 "Refusal of Medically Recommended Treatment During Pregnancy"