

Supplementary file 2: The coding framework

Patient's Comment	Initial Coding	Categories	Themes
"I believe I have the right to know what is being done to my body" (interviewee #16, mastectomy)	Right to information	Legal entity	What informed consent meant
"We cannot say no, if we do we will be asked to leave. I travelled so far just for this surgery" (interviewee #6, cholecystectomy)	Cannot reject		
"Signature in consent taking is all about making sure no harm comes to the doctor. Whatever happens during surgery, it is I who has to suffer" (interviewee #7, oesophagectomy)	Safeguard the doctor		
"Decision making is a doctor's job. I have no objections to their opinion." (Interviewee #15, bariatric surgery)	Doctors make decisions	Professional governance in decision making	
"I don't know about our condition, so we are dependent on the doctor". "I don't know who else to question apart from the doctor allocated to me" (Interviewee #26, pancreatectomy).	Dependent on the doctor -		
"Most of the information about me was gathered from my bystanders rather than directly questioning me. So, I thought that the bystander was supposed to consent for me" (interviewee #22, thyroidectomy)	Discuss mostly with bystander	Patient's opinion matters	Who should be involved in consent taking
"It is better if a family member is present when the doctor gives details about the surgery, because we are distressed. So (I) cannot comprehend what's being told" (interviewee #25, cholecystectomy)  "My family will be affected by my decision, (therefore) it is better if they can also give their ideas" (interviewee #4, thyroidectomy)	Patients are distressed  Family members aid decision making	Surgeon-patient-family involvement	

<p>“I had to ask my relatives and friends who underwent breast cancer treatment about their experiences. Some said they underwent radiotherapy and some didn’t. I was confused about what the exact treatment I was supposed to undergo” (interviewee #1, mastectomy)</p> <p>“I was not explained what my surgical procedure was until I was hospitalized for the surgery” (interviewee #5, cholecystectomy)</p> <p>“More explanation should be given on how to change our lifestyle after the surgery. Only when I was discharged was I told not to ride a bike or climb stairs. I barely make a living by riding my bike to deliver goods. My house is upstairs, and I cannot avoid climbing stairs. So, if the doctors informed me of these things before my surgery, I could have arranged someone to do my work and could stay elsewhere” (interviewee #27, component separation)</p> <p>“When I woke up I noticed four tubes jutting out of me. I was not told that this will happen before the surgery. I felt very scared” (interviewee #2, anterior resection)</p>	<p>Confusion about treatment method</p> <p>No explanation before admission</p> <p>Lack of post-operative lifestyle modification details</p>	<p>Shortage in details</p>	<p>Deficiencies in content</p>
<p>“I was not given enough time and information about the operation. So, I consulted a doctor in a private hospital to get more information about my operation” (interviewee #5, cholecystectomy)</p>	<p>Lack of time and information</p>		

<p>“Knowing too many details about my surgery is not good. I’m afraid to hear them because it might make me say no to surgery. Even if the surgery goes wrong, I know the doctors tried their best and I will accept it” (interviewee #10, thyroidectomy)</p> <p>“I know doctors are doing the best for us. Therefore, I do not wish to be educated about the adverse effects of the surgery” (interviewee #15, bariatric surgery)</p>	<p>Do not wish to know adverse effects</p> <p>Scared</p> <p>Believes surgeon will do his best</p>	<p>Failure in individualization</p>	
<p>“I do not like to see educational videos or photos of the surgery. They have a lot of blood and makes me feel nauseated” (interviewee #1, mastectomy)</p> <p>“Give leaflets at the clinic or any books explaining the surgical procedure so that I can go home and read about it” (interviewee #1, mastectomy)</p>	<p>Dislike videos/photographs of surgery</p> <p>Books/ leaflets will aid</p>	<p>Use of media</p>	<p>Methods of information delivery</p>
<p>“There is a busy atmosphere in the clinics. The nurses can tell us about the surgery rather than a doctor because they are easier to approach” (interviewee #28, thyroidectomy)</p> <p>“The most junior doctor takes the consent, but we want the senior consultant to explain the procedure to us rather than a junior doctor. Consultants explain better” (interviewee #30, thyroidectomy)</p>	<p>Nurses are easy to approach</p> <p>Consultants explain better</p>	<p>Other professional contributions</p>	