**Remove the section in red.**

**Add your letterhead to the first page of the consent form.**

**Keep each section together on the same page: move it as needed.**

**Change font size for large print.**

**Version 5/23/16**

**This is a sample consent form.** OMIC policyholders are not required to use it. Be sure to review it and modify it to suit your actual practice.

**Document your informed consent discussion.** Documentation about the discussion and use of a procedure-specific consent form help defend you against allegations of lack of informed consent.

**Offer the patient a copy** **of your consent form**. Encourage the patient to read it again at home with his or her family, and to call with any questions.

**Informed consent for eye injection to treat infection**

You may have a serious eye infection. Infections are caused by germs (microbes). Medicines that kill these germs are called antimicrobials. Your ophthalmologist wants to treat the infection with a germ-killing medicine. Treating the infection can help decrease vision loss.

When ophthalmologists treat eye infections with a germ-killing medicine, this is called off-label use. That means the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved some of these medicines for treating infections in other parts of the body, but not in the eye. Ophthalmologists now use germ-killing medicines off-label in the eye because these medicines may help decrease vision loss.

The germ-killing medicine is given by an injection (shot) into the back of your eye.This is called an intravitreal injection. The ophthalmologist may put eye drops to enlarge the pupil (black circle) in the center of your eye to see the back of your eye clearly. Next, the ophthalmologist will numb your eye as much as possible so that you do not feel pain. Then the ophthalmologist will inject the germ-killing medicine into the back part of your eye. Some patients may need repeated eye injections. Your ophthalmologist will tell you how often you will need these eye injections.

**You may have some minor problems right after the injection.** Your eye may be irritated and make a lot of tears for a few hours. The white part of your eye might turn bright red. This is from a small amount of bleeding on the surface of your eye. It will not change how well you see. It will usually clear up in about a week.

Tell the ophthalmologist right away if you notice any other problems after the injection. Problems can include worsening eye infection, eye pain, blurry or decreased vision, being extra sensitive to light, eye redness, and pus or other discharge coming from the eye. You can help prevent or reduce these problems:

* Do not rub your eyes or go swimming for 3 days after each injection.
* Call your ophthalmologist right away if you notice any of these problems.
* Keep all appointments with your ophthalmologist.

**Benefits (how this medicine can help).** The goal of treating eye infections with germ-killing medicines is to prevent more vision loss. But these eye injections may not bring back vision loss that happened before treatment.

**Alternatives (choices and options).**  Injecting a germ-killing medicine into the eye is not the only way to treat your infection. Your ophthalmologist will tell you about other medicines that could help and the risks (problems) they might cause. Your other treatment choices include:

* No treatment. If you decide not to have treatment, then your eye infection can quickly get worse. You could have more vision loss or even blindness.
* Germ-killing eye drops.
* Germ-killing medicines given as pills or as an injection into your vein

**Risks (problems this medicine may cause).** As with all medicines, there are risks from getting injections of germ-killing medicines in your eye. These risks can cause vision loss or blindness. Here are some common or serious ones:

* The injection of germ-killing medicine might not improve your vision. Your vision may get worse.
* The injection of germ-killing medicine can cause other eye problems such as:
  + allergic reaction
  + damage to the retina (the light-sensitive part of the back of your eye)
  + damage to the cornea (clear part of the front of the eye)
  + new eye infection
* detached retina (the retina might get pulled off the back of your eye)
  + cataracts (clouding of the eye’s lens)
  + glaucoma (increased eye pressure)
  + hypotony (reduced eye pressure)
  + bleeding within the eye.
* Eye problems from these eye injections can appear days, weeks, months, or even years after your injection. The costs to treat these are not included in the fee you pay for the injection of germ-killing medicine.

**By signing below, you consent (agree) that:**

* You read this informed consent form or someone read it to you.
* The ophthalmologist or staff member explained that you have a severe infection in your eye.
* The ophthalmologist or staff member answered your questions about using germ-killing medicine to treat your eye infection. He or she also explained what it means to use the medicine off-label.
* You consent to keep having injections of germ-killing medicine into your eye unless you tell your ophthalmologist that you no longer want the medicine or your eye problems change so much that there are new risks and benefits to discuss with the ophthalmologist.

I consent to have the ophthalmologist inject the germ-killing medicine into my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ( **choose one and write it in**: “right eye,” “left eye,” or “both eyes”).

Patient (or person authorized to sign for patient) Date