Seven key features of UCLA consent form

The Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA, has a three-page template that IRB staff analysts use when reviewing informed consent documents for style simplicity and inclusion of all necessary elements.

Here is an excerpt from the template:

1. Purpose of the research.
2. If you take part in this research, the following will be done:
3. The following treatments and procedures are experimental:
4. You may reasonably expect the following risks and discomforts (including the likely results if the experimental treatment does not work):
5. You may reasonably expect the following benefits:

• To yourself:
• To humanity:

These benefits may not happen and unexpected side effects may also develop.

6. If you choose not to take part in this research, the following alternative procedures might help you:
7. The results of this research may be published to inform other physicians and scientists. Your laboratory tests, photographs, videotapes and x-rays, if any, may be published. Your name or your records will not be given out without your consent, unless required by law. Your records may also be reviewed and/or photocopied by the Food and Drug Administration, the Institutional Review Board (IRB) or its staff and the sponsor of this study. ■