**Procedure for obtaining consent**

*All patients with COVID-19 and severe hypoxia will be temporarily incompetent. The patient is legally included in COVID STEROID trial if surrogate consent is obtained before inclusion according to Komitéloven §4.*

**Surrogate consent:**

* **the first trial guardian** (doctor) before randomisation
* **next of kin** after randomisation by telephone. Next of kin is defined as relatives, friends, or other acquaintances in regular contact with the trial participant. We accept a search for next of kin for 2 weeks. If **NO** next of kin, the participant will be withdrawn from the trial and the intervention stops. Otherwise, consent will be attempted until the patient either dies or the patient has regained competence.
* **the second trial guardian** (doctor)

**Consent from patient:**

* As soon as possible after the participant have regained competence (preferably during index admission)
* Attempt to obtain consent from the participant until 28 days after randomisation or discharge from hospital. If consent is not obtained at day 28, try to obtain consent before follow-up at day 90 and follow-up at 1-year.

**If consent withdrawn:**

* Ask, if they accept further data registration

**Further information is provided in *Appendix 7: Informed Consent (18.7)* in the trial protocol**