**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 **one week**. If **NO** next of kin, the participant will be withdrawn from the trial intervention – data registration continues based on the trial guardian consent. Otherwise, consent will be attempted until the participant either dies or has regained competence.
* **the second trial guardian** (doctor)

**Consent from participant:**

* 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 has not been, try again **before follow-up at day 90** and again **before follow-up at 1-year**.
* We will inform the participant **before inclusion** in the trial if the treating clinician assesses that the clinical condition of the participant allows so. In these cases, we will not include the participant, if the participant does not wish to enter the trial. If the participant agrees to enter the trial, we will not consider this a legally binding consent due to the clinical condition of the participant. Once the participant has regained competence, we will inform the participant with both oral and written information. Hereafter, we will obtain formal written consent.

**If consent is withdrawn by participant or next of kin:**

* Ask if the participant or next of kin accept further data registration and 1-year follow-up by phone.

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