**Procedure for obtaining consent**

*All patients with COVID-19 and severe hypoxia will be temporarily incompetent. The patient are 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 If **NO** next of kin, the participant will be withdrawn from the trial intervention – data registration continues based on the trial guardian consent.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.

**If consent withdrawn:**

* Ask, if they 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**