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"Can You Handle the Truth?"

What am I Missing Here?

Thought-Provoking Questions for the Clinical Research Industry

By Norman M. Goldfarb

102. What's your code?

The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified diseases with 12,000 "ICD9" diagnosis codes. Doctor's offices use these codes in insurance forms. However, when a patient goes to a clinical trial registry such as clinicaltrials.gov, they have to type in key words such as "diabetes," or select from a list of diseases that is probably incomplete and imprecise. It would be easy for patients to obtain their exact ICD9 code from their doctor's office or insurance statements. Why don't clinical trial registries include them? What am I missing here?

103. I'll catch the next boat

Clinical research is rapidly moving to the developing world. What clinical operations personnel do not seem to realize – or maybe they do – is that when clinical research moves overseas, so do clinical operations jobs. Rather than working in partnership with good U.S. sites to address issues of cost, quality and delivery, sponsors are shipping big chunks of the industry offshore. What am I missing here?

**Do you know a better way? Is something getting under your skin?
Please send your thoughts for future columns to ngoldfarb@firstclinical.com.**

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