

What am I Missing Here?

Thought-Provoking Questions for the Clinical Research Industry

By Norman M. Goldfarb

124. Home court advantage

Sites have to conduct studies according to the regulations, IRB requirements, and the protocol. If there are no pertinent rules for a specific situation, the sponsor's standard operating procedure (SOP) governs. But if the site has a pertinent SOP, it usually trumps the sponsor's SOP. For example, if the site's SOP says to use the site's delegation of authority log, the sponsor's form gets used for scratch paper. SOPs can come in darn handy, so why don't more sites have them? What am I missing here?

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

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