

What Am I Missing Here?

Thought-Provoking Questions for the Clinical Research Industry

By Norman M. Goldfarb

198. What's the point?

Given the length, difficulty and complexity of most informed consent forms and the many studies that demonstrate that consent forms just don't work, we have to ask ourselves two questions: First, are effective consent forms even possible for many studies? And second, do we *really* care about informed consent, or are we just going through the motions to comply with regulations and protect ourselves from subject injury lawsuits? The answers to these questions would explain a lot. And, until we know the answers, progress will be a challenge. 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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