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What Am I Missing Here?

Thought-Provoking Questions for the Clinical Research Industry

By Norman M. Goldfarb

234. We trust you, but we'll hang onto your money anyway

Back in the day, site monitors collected case report forms from sites every six weeks or so. Now, study sponsors know when a visit has been completed when the site enters data in an EDC (eCRF) system. As the use of eSource spreads, study sponsors get the data even sooner. With risk-based monitoring and investigator databases, study sponsors can distinguish between reliable and unreliable sites. Holding back a reasonable percentage of site payments made sense when sponsors were essentially blind to site activities between monitoring visits, but those days are passing. And so should most holdbacks from reliable sites. 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 editor@firstclinical.com.

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