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Vol. 7, No. 3, March 2011 "Can You Handle the Truth?"

What Am I Missing Here?

Thought-Provoking Questions for the Clinical Research Industry

By Norman M. Goldfarb

156. Do you have any questions?

The longest informed consent form I've heard about plans 42 pages. What are the chances that the typical study subject will actually read and understand that much information? What are the chances that a study subject wants that much information, or even 10 pages worth? Are we trying to read potential subjects into submission: "I'll enroll, I'll enroll, just show me where to sign, I'll do anything you want, just please don't make me read any more. I have children." The simple solution is to write a short consent form and make the rest of the material available in optional supplements. Do you know of any forms longer than 42 pages? 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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