

What Am I Missing Here?

Thought-Provoking Questions for the Clinical Research Industry

By Norman M. Goldfarb

207. Wherefore art thou, simple language?

The word "stipend," often found in informed consent forms, is unknown to most study participants. For those familiar with the term, it probably means "a scholarship or fellowship allowance granted to a student." What's wrong with the term "payment"? Why do we use terminology that is confusing or unknown to study participants? This is but one of many examples. By the way, there is an informed consent glossary of over 4,000 terms at <http://firstclinical.com/icfglossary>. 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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