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# What Am I Missing Here?

## Thought-Provoking Questions for the Clinical Research Industry

**By Norman M. Goldfarb**

**225. Who Are We Protecting?**

The original concept of informed consent forms was to inform, and thereby protect, study participants. Over time, consent forms have proved a convenient place to add language that primarily protects the site (and the study sponsor). As result, not only have consent forms grown in size, but they have also become more confusing, as the consent form attempts to serve two masters. Why not put the participant protections at the front and the site protections at the back, in an appendix? 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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