

What Am I Missing Here?

Thought-Provoking Questions for the Clinical Research Industry

By Norman M. Goldfarb

244. Thank you!

When someone gives something, buys something, sells something, or does something, it's customary to say "thank you." Nevertheless, how often do sites — to say nothing of study sponsors — do more than give a quick, verbal "thanks" to study subjects who have spent many hours on visits and other study activities — not to mention possibly risking their health — for very modest compensation? There is even no ethical issue with giving a modestly generous "thank you" gift, especially if it's not disclosed prior to study completion. Sites can pass along thank you notes from sponsors. It's just common courtesy. 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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