

## Guidance for Consent Readability

Review your consent with your group. Take a section or two and revise it using the tips below as guidance.

*Questions to ask as you are reviewing your informed consent:*

1. Who is the target population?
  - What issues or concerns might be specific to these participants (ie. literacy, vulnerable population)?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Will the intended population understand this consent?
  - Is the consent at a 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade reading level?
  - Is it appropriate for the intended audience (ie. intellectual disability, elderly population, non-native English speakers)?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What are your primary concerns with this consent?

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4. Does the consent include medical terminology, technical jargon, or overly complex terms?
- Medical terms should be revised into lay language (ie. The term “Hypertension” could be changed to “high blood pressure” or “Venipuncture” can be changed to “needle stick” or “blood draw”).
  - Complex terms can also be revised (ie. “Syncope” to “faint”).

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. Would the participants understand the study procedures? How can you make the procedures easier to understand?
- Create a bulleted list
  - Bold or underline crucial information
  - Make a table or chart
  - Use diagrams and pictures

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. What other revisions can you make to improve the consent’s readability?
- Use shorter sentences
  - Limit sentences to one idea
  - Use words with 3 syllables or less
  - Use active verbs
  - Don’t be redundant
  - Explain terminology

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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