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BULLETIN OF THE TUFTS SBER IRB MEDFORD CAMPUS

PREPARING CONSENT FORMS

Consent forms should be succinct, while still providing participants with all the necessary information that will enable them to make an **informed** decision as to whether or not they wish to participate in the research. Consent forms could be one page in length or could be 5 pages in length; it depends on the specific research that is being conducted.

BASIC ELEMENTS OF INFORMED CONSENT

The following are **basic** elements of informed consent that should be provided to all participants **if applicable to your research**.

- (1) A statement that the study involves research, an explanation of the purposes of the research and the expected duration of the subject's participation, a description of the procedures to be followed.
- (2) A description of any reasonably foreseeable risks or discomforts to the subject;
- (3) A description of any benefits to the subject or to others which may reasonably be expected from the research;
- (4) A disclosure of appropriate alternative procedures or courses of treatment, if any, that might be advantageous to the subject; (Note: this need not be included if it is not applicable to your research).
- (5) A statement describing the extent, if any, to which confidentiality of records identifying the subject will be maintained;
- (6) For research involving more than minimal risk, an explanation as to whether any compensation and an explanation as to whether any medical treatments are available if injury occurs and, if so, what they consist of, or where further information may be obtained;
- (7) An explanation of whom to contact for answers to pertinent questions about the research and research subjects' rights, and whom to contact in the event of a research-related injury to the subject; and
- (8) A statement that participation is voluntary, refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which the subject is otherwise entitled and the subject may discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which the subject is otherwise entitled. (Note: only include statements that are applicable to your research).

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ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMED CONSENT

The following are **additional elements of informed consent**. When appropriate, one or more of the following elements of information shall also be provided to each subject:

- (1) A statement that the particular procedure may involve risks to the subject which are currently unforeseeable;
- (2) Anticipated circumstances under which the subject's participation may be terminated by the investigator without regard to the subject's consent;
- (3) Any additional costs to the subject that may result from participation in the research;
- (4) The consequences of a subject's decision to withdraw from the research and procedures for orderly termination of participation by the subject;
- (5) A statement that significant new findings developed during the course of the research which may relate to the subject's willingness to continue participation will be provided to the subject; and
- (6) The approximate number of subjects involved in the study.

REFERENCE: 45 CFR 46.116 a and b

The information for this Bulletin was taken from the website for the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of Human Research Protections.

<http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/45cfr46.htm>

This website is an invaluable source of information regarding the regulations that govern human subject research.