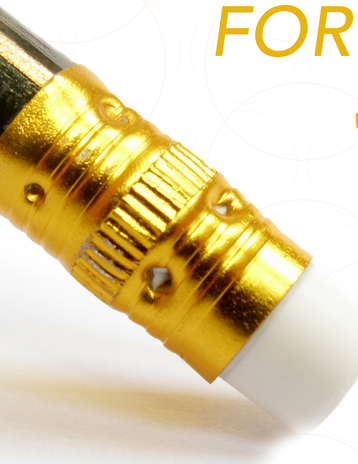
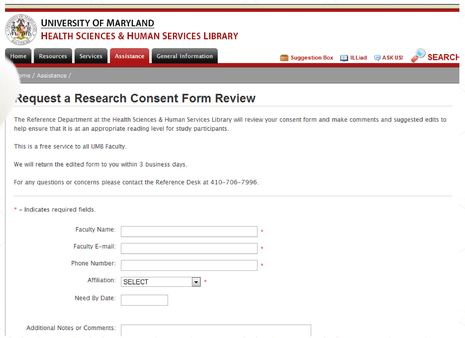
REVIEWING RESEARCH CONSENT FORMS: A New Library Service

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE
Health Sciences + Human Services library





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Request a Research Consent Form Review

The Reference Department at the Health Sciences & Human Services Library will review your consent form and make comments and suggested edits to help ensure that it is at an appropriate reading level for study participants.

This is a free service to all UMB Faculty.

We will return the edited form to you within 3 business days.

For any questions or concerns please contact the Reference Desk at 410-706-7996.

* = Indicates required fields.

Faculty Name: *
Faculty E-mail: *
Phone Number: *
Affiliation: SELECT *
Need By Date:

Additional Notes or Comments:

Objectives:

- Librarians recognized a need for better quality consent forms while serving on the University's Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Consent forms need to be written at an appropriate reading level and are often too difficult to understand
- Pilot developed by the Reference and Research Services Department to assist investigators in creating quality consent forms prior to submission to the IRB.

Methods:

- Electronic form was developed for online submission of forms. Form is linked from the Library Home Page
- Review service was publicized via campus and library newsletters, homepage banner, and librarian discussing service at IRB meetings.
- Once document is submitted one of five Reference Staff members is assigned to review the consent form.
- Staff member provides a critique of the consent form from the perspective of a typical patient and offers suggestions on areas that may need simplifying or clarifying. ~~These are only suggested changes.~~
- Reference Staff was educated on best practices in writing consent forms.

Results and Next Steps:

- Consent form review banner was linked from the Human Research Protection Office web page to better promote the service
- This is a new service and we will continue to advertise and promote to researchers on campus.
- Service has received a few requests since it launched in February 2011
- IRB members are very enthusiastic about our service.

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