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27 June 2024

GENERAL NOTICE:

LENGTH OF PARTICIPANT INFORMATION LEAFLETS (PIL)

The University of the Witwatersrand, Human Research Ethics Committee: (Medical) has recently discussed the length of the PIL documents being submitted for review and is concerned about the length of these documents, and the burden this is placing on participants.

The committee agreed that while it is critical to maintain the integrity of the PIL with regards to important international and local information and legal requirements that needs to be provided to participants, the document needs to be more manageable and user friendly for participants.

The committee asks Applicants to apply their minds when developing the PIL/ICON for South African purposes, by avoiding cutting and pasting, and to summarise important information into simple, plain English. The PIL should aim to be about 20 pages in length.

Assent Forms should also be adequately summarised and appropriate for minors of the applicable ages.

Your urgent attention to the above would be appreciated.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Ruff".

Paul Ruff (Jul 2, 2024 10:07 GMT+2)

Professor Paul Ruff
Chair, Wits HREC (Medical)

For and on behalf of the University of the Witwatersrand, Human Research Ethics Committee (Medical)