

20 July 2014

Pfizer
235 E 42nd St
New York, NY

re:Request for informed consent documents

To whom it may concern at Pfizer;

As a concerned research participant who has volunteered for more than 40 clinical trials, please let me introduce myself. My name is Lane Raspberry. I wholeheartedly support pharmaceutical research and look forward to a future in which patients, physicians, researchers, and research organizations increasingly collaborate toward the common goal of protecting the health of all people and addressing all health concerns for the mutual benefit of the global community.

I am writing to request that you apply a free and open copyright license, such as a Creative Commons Attribution license, to all informed consent documents (ICDs) from all clinical trials you have, and then make the same available for public download. I expect that executing this would be trivial if you wished to do it. Making these ICDs immediately accessible to the public will benefit Pfizer and communities which provide research participants. To grant quick and easy accessibility, I suggest that all ICDs be archived through Wikipedia and related Wikimedia projects.

The public has a considerable stake in the information contained in these documents, and I feel it is important to share this information in a public forum. Please inform me about any barriers you perceive to taking these steps, as I have experience assisting organizations in information sharing and would be happy to partner with you in making these documents, which greatly impact the public, open to public oversight.

Please excuse my directness; I am asking for the open source publication of ICDs because it is important to make public information about your trials available in online and digital communication channels which are now ubiquitous, and I feel your organization has not so far responded to this opportunity. It is my understanding that information in informed consent documents is public information which must be available to the communities from which you recruit research participants. Your organization has never made the public information contained in informed consent documents available through existing channels, and consequently, the informed consent document is both 1) the only published layman explanation of any given clinical trial and 2) withheld in practice from public review.

Research participants and communities are harmed by the practice of limiting access to the information contained in informed consent documents, so if there is a reasonable way to give them access then I hold that you should provide it. I cannot say how all understanding of clinical research can finally be achieved in all communities but as a contributor to the world's most popular health educational outreach publication, Wikipedia, I can at least say that the Wikimedia platforms can competently distribute this information.

If you agree with me then please share these documents. If you need more time to consider this request, then in the meantime please inform those who bring a safety concern to you about any of your studies that this request has been made along with an offer to deliver your content to the people who wished to access it. The public has the right to public information.

To implement, upload the documents where you like and please note the free and open licenses you apply to them. As a wiki editor, I would be happy to assist with this process if you have questions on how to do it. For my part, I will be copying some or all of them to Wikimedia Commons. Right now there is a permanent timestamped note about about this letter at that Wikipedia article, so that the public has notice that you have received this request. If you like, you may also visit the Wikipedia article about Pfizer, click "Talk" at the top of the page, and talk publicly about this. If you wish to talk to me individually, my contact information is below.

Thank you kindly for your attention and for the excellent work you do in healthcare.

Sincerely,

Lane Raspberry

lane@blueraspberry.com

User:blueraspberry on Wikipedia

Speaking only as an individual, whose views are not shared by any organization

Employed as Wikipedian in Residence at Consumer Reports