

Effective Health Communication (EHC) Core

EHC Core services related to research participation

The *Effective Health Communication (EHC) Core* offers consultation to optimize informed consent documents with respect to patient literacy, numeracy, and language. The Core can also provide training to research staff in effective health communication skills that can be used during the consent process, such as plain language, and teach back.

EHC Core services:

- Edit informed consent documents to simplify readability and layout
 - o Simplify language
 - o Translate medical and research terms into lay language
 - o Decrease word count and sentence length
 - o Suggest use of figures
- Recommend measures to assess patient understanding of informed consent process
- Provide feedback on recruitment scripts and other recruitment materials
- Review data collection tools and procedures, and recommend strategies to simplify
- Train research staff in effective health communication skills for interacting with research participants

Example of EHC Core changes to a consent document:

	<u>Before EHC Core review</u>	<u>After EHC Core review</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Readability			
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	9.9	6.5	-3.4
Text Statistics			
Word Count	2,866	1,739	-1127
Sentence Count	171	150	-21
Words per Sentence	16.8	11.6	-5.2

Recent EHC Core projects* related to informed consent:

- All of Us (national Precision Medicine Initiative)
- ADAPTABLE pragmatic clinical trial
- PCORI cohort studies
- Vanderbilt Inpatient Cohort Study (VICS)
- Observational Cohort of Children with Sickle Cell
- BioVU

**Studies range in topic, size, methods (observational to pragmatic clinical trials), and context (inpatient/outpatient, adult/pediatric).*

Contact:

Kathryn Goggins, MPH
Kathryn.m.goggins@vanderbilt.edu

Website:

https://medicineandpublichealth.vanderbilt.edu/hsr/core_health_comm.php