



6 Must-Read Articles on Payments to Research Participants

Clinical research is a field continuously changing due to new regulations, trends, strategies and so on. With so much happening in the industry, compensation to research volunteers isn't always the hottest topic. Yet, whether you're a site manager, study coordinator or accountant, there are benefits to staying well informed in the participant payments arena. Here are six 'can't miss' articles to help you understand the present-day payments landscape.

1. **“Paying Research Volunteers: How to be Participant-Centric”**

Putting the participant first is a best practice in clinical trials and the payment and reimbursement process is no exception. Many sites are realizing the need to be more participant-centric with their compensation. There are seemingly small things a site can do that add up and help contribute to a better clinical trial experience for study volunteers. Are you taking a participant-centered approach? Read [this article](#) to find out.

2. **“11 Considerations for Choosing a Participant Payment System”**

A guide for those thinking about implementing a new participant payment system, [this article](#) lists factors to consider ahead of time to make an informed decision as well as what to do after you've made that decision. From IRB approvals to how you'll implement protocols, figuring this out in advance may help prevent your site from running into delays and foreseeable obstacles.

3. **“Clinical Trials Funded by... Patients?”**

While the other articles in this list involve making payments to research volunteers, [this one](#) flips the model and looks at the controversial topic of charging patients to participate in clinical trials. With millions of dollars spent on the average protocol, clinical trials are by the far the most expensive aspect of bringing a new drug to market. Funding for studies comes from a variety of sources and, in many cases, is declining while costs are rising. When high costs prevent new treatments from being made available to those who need them the most, it may seem that any additional funding would help, regardless of the source. So, what if funding for a trial came from the participating patients? This article looks at the pros and cons from multiple perspectives and provides examples of people trying to make this model work.

4. **“The Professional Research Subject: Fact or Fiction?”**

As an industry we hope that research volunteers are enrolling in clinical trials out of the goodness of their heart, but the reality is there are financially motivated people who participate in clinical trials. In fact, there are some Phase 1 volunteers that unfortunately make a full-time job out of participating in clinical studies by lying about eligibility requirements and enrolling in multiple studies concurrently. [This article](#) looks at an alarming issue the industry needs to address: detecting deception to protect both patients and data quality.



5. **“5 Signs it’s Time to Replace Your Patient Stipend Solution”**

Site personnel are usually so caught up in the day-to-day hustle that they rarely get the opportunity to take a look at their current systems and processes. [This post](#) provides indications that a research site may be behind the times when it comes to paying and reimbursing research volunteers for their clinical trial participation. Luckily, solutions exist that help site staff increase productivity by cutting down on administration while improving the participant experience. If your site identifies with any of these signs – whether you’ve never used a participant payment system or you’re using some form of electronic payments – it is likely time to explore new options.

6. **“Payments to Research Subjects: What is Taxable Income?”**

Often, individuals who participate in clinical trials will receive payment from the research site conducting the study. Compensation can range from small reimbursements for expenses like parking, to large sums of money in the form of stipends. Are either of these types of payments considered taxable income that needs to be reported to the IRS? [This article](#) provides information on when participants are required to report payments they’ve received from clinical trial participation to the IRS, and the research site’s role in facilitating.

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About the Author

Kristina is the Product Marketing Manager of [Nimblify, Inc.](#), creator of Participant Payments, a participant-centric electronic payment system to help clinical research sites compensate and reimburse research volunteers. Previously, she worked as the Product Marketing Manager at Forte and lead marketer for Overture EDC, a user-friendly electronic data capture system with an elegant design and easy-to-navigate user interface, that fully supports compliance with 21 CFR Part 11.

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