Although the importance of communicating research risks to potential participants is widely recognized, it is doubtful that standard disclosure processes are effective. Many participants may not fully understand and appreciate research risks – where such understanding is a requirement for valid consent. There is clearly room for improvement in communicating research risks. We will explore questions such as: What are the major barriers to effective risk communication? What are some ways to improve risk communication in clinical research? How should we assess the importance of improved risk communication relative to the cost of such improvements?

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