

To be effective, data collection must be

- **Straight forward & simple** ie forms must be readily understood by those filling them out
- **Part of routine data collection** ie data collected should where possible be data that is collected any way
- **Immediately useful to the person collecting it** ie pretty much as above. An example would be a record of the person's current illness their progress & expected outcome
- **Any data collected should be processed rapidly** ie if information is collected, the person who receives it should acknowledge receipt of the info & forward a decision to the person who provided the info- not just to the patient.
- **Then returned to those who collected it at a prearranged time-** there is nothing worse than sending info off to someone & getting no feed back. Initially responses are detailed , then if there is no feedback, data collection simply becomes an inconvenience.
- **Can the data be processed in some way ?** Is there a way that the forms a doctor fills in be processed to give useful trend data back to the doctor IF THE DOCTOR REQUESTS this be done??

We design CRFs Case Report Forms for GPs to use in clinical studies & believe this improves the quality of data collected.

Computer based forms are great

Regards

Dr Chris Hogan