



Speaking book for clinical trial patients launched in Africa

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A speaking book funded by Pfizer which explains the rights and responsibilities of patients entering clinical trials has been launched in Africa.

The book, which contains an audio component corresponding to text and illustrations, is designed for patients who do not have strong literacy skills to explain the rights and roles of clinical trial patients.

Launched at the World Medical Association 's' (WMA) general assembly in Seoul, South Korea last week, it is intended for use by patients, social workers and community health workers involved in trials.

Dr Edward Hill, chair of council for the WMA, said that more than ever it was necessary to conduct research with, in and for poor populations. Dr Kgosi Letlape, chair of the South African Medical association, added the book would assist the goal to "break down the barriers of communication".

4,500 books are planned for distribution in South Africa, along with three other sub-Saharan countries, before the end of the year. It will also be presented to internal and external organisations to assess additional international need.

The book was developed by Books of Hope, with the WMA, the Steve Biko Centre of Bioethics and the South African Medical Association.

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