

CLINICAL TRIAL REGISTRATION PRIOR TO STUDY ENROLLMENT AND MANUSCRIPT PUBLICATION

I Background

- The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) will require, as a condition of consideration for manuscript publication, registration in a public trials registry. Phase I trials are exempt. **See NEJM reference below.**
- This policy applies to any clinical trial **starting** enrollment **after July 1, 2005.**
- For trials **beginning** enrollment **before July 1, 2005**, ICMJE member journals will require registration by **September 13, 2005**, before considering the trial for publication.
- Trials must register at or before the onset of patient enrollment.
- **The ICMJE defines a clinical trial as any research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention or comparison groups to study the cause-and-effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome. A medical intervention means any intervention used to modify a health outcome: drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioral treatments, process-of-care changes, etc. (e.g., “is drug X as effective as drug Y in treating heart failure?”). There must be at least one prospectively assigned concurrent control or comparison group in order to trigger the requirement for registration.**
- **Why is this being done? The public deserves to know about trials that could shape the body of evidence about clinical effectiveness or adverse events whose purpose is to affect clinical practice.**
- The ICMJE does not advocate one particular registry, but member journals will require authors to register in a registry meeting several criteria:
 - The registry must be accessible to the public at no charge.
 - It must be open to all prospective registrants and managed by a not-for-profit organization.
 - There must be a mechanism to ensure the validity of the registration data, and the registry should be electronically searchable.
 - The minimum information that must be included in the registry:
 - A unique identifying number
 - Title of study
 - A statement of the intervention and comparison studied
 - A statement of the study hypothesis
 - Research ethics review approval
 - Definitions of the primary and secondary outcome measures
 - Eligibility criteria
 - Key trial dates (registration date, anticipated or actual start date, anticipated or actual date of last follow-up, planned or actual date of closure to data entry, date trial data considered complete).
 - Target number of subjects
 - Funding source and sponsor
 - PI contact information

- Currently, only one registry meets these requirements: www.clinicaltrials.gov, sponsored by the United States National Library of Medicine.

II Clinicaltrials.gov Protocol Registration Information

Definitions:

- **Protocol Registration administrator:** An organization's primary contact for Clinicaltrials.gov
- **Registered data provider:** person designated as the protocol administrator who registers a study and makes changes. May be lead principal investigator, principal investigator, sponsor, government or international agency, whomever is responsible ultimately for the study (can be a designee).
 - Trial data may be submitted by the following who become **registered data providers** :
 - **Lead Principal investigators** who are responsible for conducting and coordinating the overall clinical investigation across multiple sites. Trial data *should not* be submitted from each individual study location.
 - **Principal Investigators, PI** initiated clinical interventions, single site.
 - **Sponsors** who are legally responsible for conducting clinical trials, e.g., holders of investigational new drug applications (IND) from the U.S. FDA for each qualifying drug entering Phase II efficacy studies.
 - **Government or international** agencies conducting or supporting clinical trials, e.g., the NIH
 - All studies must already have RSRB approval for the protocol.

Who is responsible for maintaining the data in ClinicalTrials.gov?

Registered data providers (see above) enter information about their clinical trials, ensuring that the information is correct, readily understood by members of the public, and updated in a timely manner. They serve as a point of contact for the ClinicalTrials.gov team and resolve questions associated with the information that is provided. The ClinicalTrials.gov team maintains the Protocol Registration System (PRS) and the ClinicalTrials.gov site, and may make minor corrections to records.

Can protocol information be transferred electronically to ClinicalTrials.gov?

Yes. This option is available in the Protocol Registration System (PRS). Apply for a PRS account and then after logging into the PRS refer to the online User's Guide for information on upload.

Can a registered data provider have multiple user accounts?

Yes. When sponsors or their representatives become a registered data provider, they will be given information on use of the PRS, including instructions for creating additional user accounts.

Is there a charge for listing studies in ClinicalTrials.gov?

No, there is no charge. ClinicalTrials.gov is a service of The U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), provided through its National Library of Medicine (NLM).

Can our organization list the results of a trial on our ClinicalTrials.gov record?

We encourage organizations to list citations to peer-reviewed publications that include results from their clinical trials by providing your unique PubMed Identifier (PMID) of a published article or by entering the full bibliographic citation on a ClinicalTrials.gov record through the PRS.

Note: NIH-funded investigators are asked to voluntarily submit to PUBMED Central, www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov, their final manuscript upon acceptance for publication, resulting from research in part or in whole, with direct costs from NIH. Benefits: can be used as an alternative means to fulfill existing requirement to provide publications as part of progress reports. Beginning with progress reports submitted August 1, 2005 (progress report submissions for fiscal year 2006 funding), a reference to the PMC submission identification number may be included in the progress report in lieu of submitting a hard copy of the publication. The publication date is the publisher's official data of final publication.

- In addition, when available, we encourage you to provide a link to the appropriate approved drug page at FDA's Drugs@FDA web site.
<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/drugsatfda>
- Finally, if you have results posted on your own web site, you may link your ClinicalTrials.gov record to that page, provided that it clearly identifies your organization. **Questions?** register@clinicaltrials.gov

References

Is This Clinical Trial Fully Registered? _ A Statement from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. N ENGL J Med 352;23 June 9, 2005

Clinical Trial Registration to Be Required by Pediatrics. Pediatrics Vol. 115 No. 1 January 2005, pp. 177