



Introduction to Clinical Research **Boot Camp 2021**

Investigators
July 26-30
12:00-1:00pm PDT

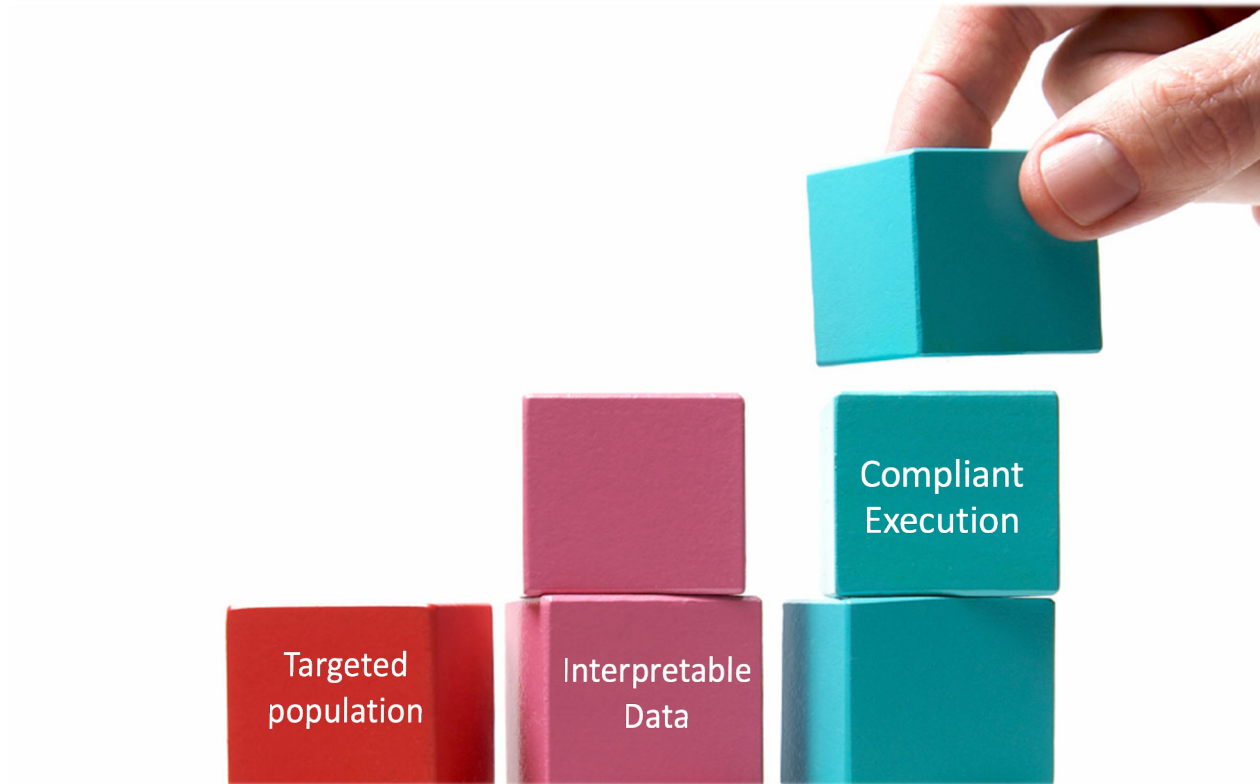
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Learning Objectives

By the end of this session you will be able to:

- Identify four critical questions that must be addressed in designing a clinical trial.
- Describe the problems that can occur if the trial design neglects any critical design elements.

Study Protocol



What Are The Qualities Of A POORLY Designed Study?

Design Problems



Execution Issues

Unreasonable, unrealistic eligibility criteria

Irrelevant data

Vague language

Errors and inconsistencies between protocol sections

Challenging procedures for participants and study staff

Slow (or no!) recruitment

Inadequate data

Unreliable results

Protocol deviations

Safety issues

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Identify the end goal



Critical Questions

- Who will be enrolled in the trial?
- How will participants be treated?
- How will results be evaluated?
- How will we protect participant safety?



Who Will Be Enrolled in the Trial?

Inclusion Criteria



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Who Will Be Enrolled in the Trial?

Pitfalls:

- ❑ Too restrictive
 - Don't let the perfect interfere with the good
- ❑ Too 'generous'
 - Participants at specific risk of harm
 - Participant outcome likely to be uninformative
- ❑ Cherry picking
 - Match criteria to intended *market* population

Who Will Be Enrolled in the Trial?

Recommendations:



Know the product being tested

- Investigator's Brochure or package insert
- Toxicity profile



Understand the trial phase



Understand how results will affect the next step

How Will Participants Be Treated?

**Drug Administration/
Dose Adjustments**

**Time Windows for
Procedures**



**Clinic Resources &
Infrastructure**

Visit Calendar

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How Will Participants Be Treated?

Pitfalls:

- Participant perspective
- Relationships with study/clinic staff
- Missing & unreliable data
- IRB, Institution, Sponsor, OHRP/FDA
- Future patients



How Will Participants Be Treated?

Recommendations:



Consult with research & clinic staff for feasibility



Create Data tools to minimize missed data

- Fast Fact sheets
- Visit checklists



Look at the details

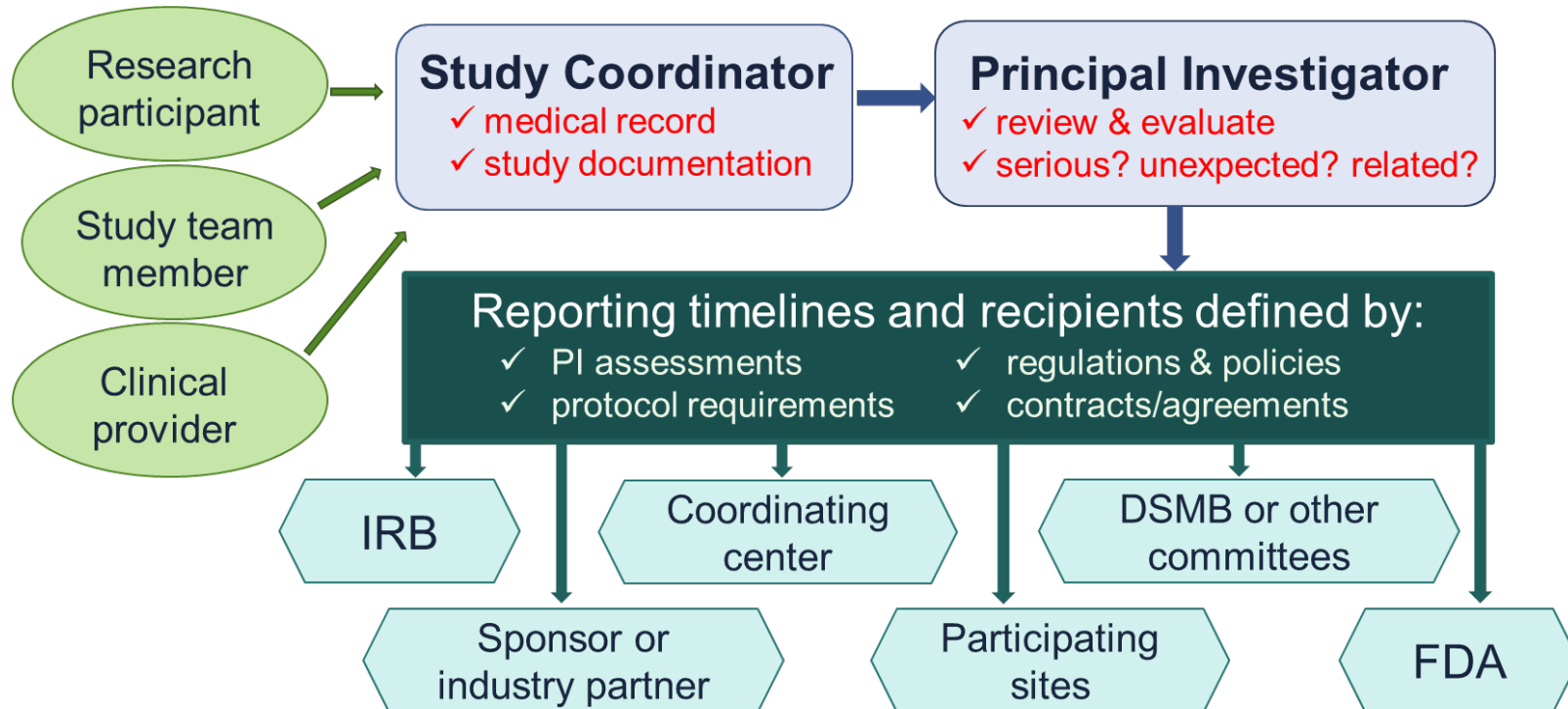


Match protocol to practice (not vice-versa)

How Will Results Be Evaluated?

- ❑ Define the primary & secondary endpoints
- ❑ Stats questions
 - sample size, type 1 & 2 errors
- ❑ Data collection tools
- ❑ Data cleaning methods
- ❑ Interim analysis plan
- ❑ Data Safety Monitoring Plan
 - information flow

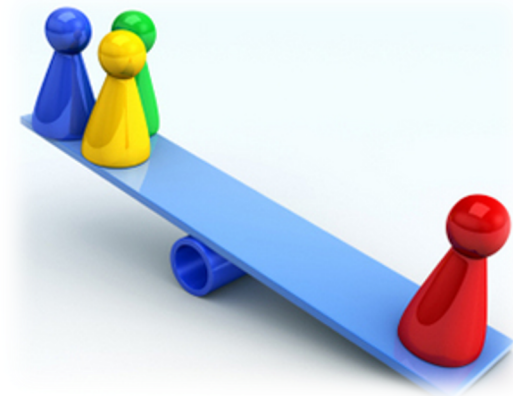
How Will We Protect Patient Safety?



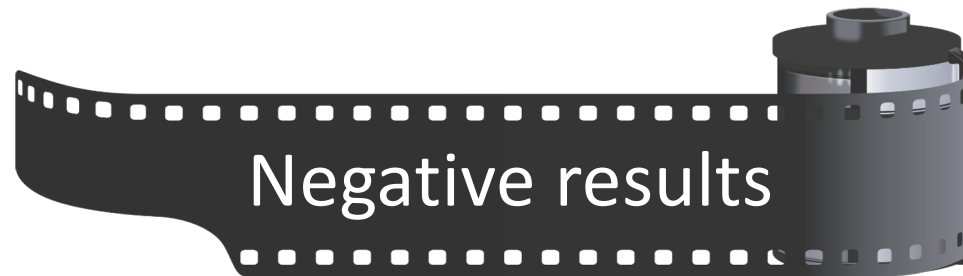
How Will Results Be Evaluated?

Pitfalls:

- ❑ Introduction of bias
 - unblinding practices
 - unbalanced protocol arms
 - unspecified endpoints



How Will Results Be Evaluated?



How Will Results Be Evaluated?

Recommendations:

- Consult with statistician
- Understand the question
- Maintain blinding
- Balance between arms
- Pre-specified endpoints



Sample of Study Protocol Elements

- Background information and rationale
- Objectives and endpoints
- Eligibility criteria
- Enrollment and withdrawal
- Investigational product/Intervention
- Study Schedule
- Study Procedures/Evaluations
- Risk/Benefit Assessment

Further details:

**ICH GCP
Section 6**

**21 CFR 312.23
(6iii)**

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Eight benchmarks for ethical research

Collaborative partnership

Social value

Scientific validity

Fair participant selection

Favorable risk/benefit ratio

Independent review

Informed consent

Respect for participants and communities

Emanuel et al. What makes clinical research ethical?
JAMA 2000;283:2701-11; *JID* 2004;189:930-37.

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QUESTIONS?



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THANK YOU!



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