ADVARRA™

CASE STUDY

Leveraging a Central IRB Office to Improve Turnaround Times and Consistency

Executive Summary:

Utilizing a Centralized IRB Office, supported by Advarra's Center for IRB Intelligence Platform (CIRBI), the Academic and Community Center Research United (ACCRU) research network improved their review turnaround times by weeks and increased review consistency. Leveraging central IRB elements like state-of-the-art technology, a single point of contact, and a centralized location for all study documents and approvals ensured a smooth transition process.

Topics:

- The Challenge: Streamlining operations to improve turnaround times and consistency
- The Ask: Improve turnaround times for protocol and site reviews and maintain consistency among reviews
- The Solution: Leverage Advarra's CIRBI platform to enable efficient review and consistent team workflows.
- The Result: Streamlined and efficient protocol development processes

ACCRU
Academic and Community Cancer Research United

About ACCRU:

Academic and Community Cancer Research United (ACCRU) is a collaborative clinical research network of academic and community-based cancer centers with a goal to prevent cancer, cure cancer, and attenuate cancer-related symptoms. The ACCRU Research Coordinating Center is based at the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center. They offer industry sponsors and collaborators a full range of clinical trial development and management services.

ACCRU does not endorse products and services, and this case study should not be seen as an endorsement.

Leveraging a Central IRB Office to Improve Turnaround Times and Consistency

The Challenge

With over 100 sites in their research network, Academic and Community Cancer Research United (ACCRU) struggled to guarantee efficient and consistent IRB document submission and approval across their vast research portfolio. A lack of standard processes resulting from separate local IRB reviews impacted protocol requirements, documentation, and approval, resulting in 4- to 6-week turnaround timelines. In order to save time, resources, and money, ACCRU needed a central system to standardize their reviews and timelines.

The Ask

When searching for a central IRB to collaborate with, ACCRU's ask was simple: improve turnaround times and consistency among reviews. This required a partner who could support consistent informed consent form (ICF) review and provide a thorough review of the protocol while also ensuring IRB review within one week. Their main priority in creating high quality protocols involved maintaining consistency among review of protocols, having the appropriate Board expertise, and involving staff and subjects.

> **"Advarra provides ACCRU with a thorough review process. This allows us to be more efficient with our study development and start-up times. The CIRBI platform is also easy to use and the customer service is excellent."**
>
> **Brett Percival**
>
> *Coordinator, Regulatory Affairs,*
> *Mayo Clinic Cancer Center Clinical Research Office*

The Solution

Advarra's CIRBI Platform enables real-time communication among sponsors/CROs, research sites, study staff, and IRB members, allowing for greater transparency for clinical research programs. To migrate from their local IRB to the CIRBI platform, ACCRU worked with their single point of contact to address questions and ensure a smooth transition. Once sites were migrated to the CIRBI platform, each study had the same process from protocol design to approvals. Within CIRBI, research staff can easily utilize the adaptive Smart forms and pre-populated submission data, improving the efficiency of completing submissions to Advarra. The user-friendly platform also allows easy collaboration among researchers – staff know the status of each protocol, and metrics located on CIRBI's dashboard ensure transparency of timelines which was important to ACCRU leadership.

The Result

Since transitioning to the centralized CIRBI Platform, ACCRU network members enjoy a consistent and robust operation across their studies. As staff have become more familiar with Advarra and the CIRBI Platform, they've continued to centralize more studies. Additionally, turnaround time on protocol approval has improved from a 4-6-week timeline to 10 business days. For simple protocol modifications, ACCRU anticipates about a week turnaround. While shortening the turnaround timeframe is noteworthy with one study, when applied to each study where Advarra is the IRB of record, its impact multiplies and benefits the subjects involved

Advarra Collaboration Delivers Exceptional Results:

- Shortened study startup timelines
- Simplified site selection and activation process
- Improved efficiency and transparency in IRB review

Need to Improve Your Study Startup Timelines?

Advarra offers IRB efficiencies to help you meet critical milestones

Shorten Timelines and Enhance Study Success:

Site Identification and Feasibility Support

Use site performance metrics from completed studies to identify quality, high-performing sites through Advarra's Performance Data Quicklist (PDQ) service.

Institutional Site Identification

Request our list of over 3,200 institutional sites that have worked with Advarra and/or have master agreements with us.

Rapid Site Activation

Onboard sites in less than one day and shrink total IRB review and approval time with Advarra's IRB-Ready service.

Real-Time Study Information and Reports

Stay up to date on the IRB review process with real-time data from the Advarra CIRBI Platform. No need to search through your emails—IRB communications are managed through your CIRBI account.

As a key element of study startup, IRB review can have a substantial impact on meeting critical study milestones. Advarra provides flexible solutions to help accelerate the initial IRB review process and make it more efficient.

Contact Institutions@advarra.com to get started.

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IRB/IBC Review • Consulting Services • Research Technology