Speaker's Bureau

The National Dental Practice-Based Research Network
The nation's network

FAQs

Q: On average, how much time should I expect to dedicate per patient if I'm participating in a study? Are patients difficult to recruit?

A: Doing a clinical study does add some time because of the added steps to do the research. The amount of time will vary depending on the specific study. Our goal is to implement studies that will easily integrate into your everyday practice routine and not affect your patient appointment time. Recruiting patients is fairly simple. Because the Network studies do not involve experimentation, it's a matter of explaining to your patients that you will merely be collecting information on the procedures done in everyday practice.

Q: Does my staff need to be involved if I do a study?

A: It varies by office. Some practitioners like to involve their staff in the study, while others like to do everything on their own. Any staff member can help the practitioner fill out the data collection forms, but they must be trained in Human Subjects Protection to obtain consent from the patient.

Q: How much time does training take to be involved in a study?

A: The training needed for any particular study protocol varies. Some studies, such as online questionnaires, do not require any training. All clinical studies, in which you collect data about patients, will require that you complete Human Subjects Protections training and have a protocol training session at your office with you and your staff (if you choose to involve them).

Q: Can we suggest studies? If so, how?

A: You can visit the NIDCR website for more information. https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/research/grant-

Q: How do you schedule the research patients into your normal daily schedule?

A: The data collections forms are designed to integrate into your clinical practice, so as not to disrupt your normal routine. Consenting patients (explaining the study and answering any questions they may have) and completing the forms may take a few minutes.

Q: What percentage of Network members have participated in a study?

A: Approximately 12 percent of members have participated in one or more clinical studies with patient enrollment.

Q: How long does the average study last?

A: On average, a study lasts a few months; however, this varies depending on the type of study. Clinical studies can be anywhere from one study visit per enrolled patient to 2 years, where follow-up data are collected on study participants annually for the duration of the study. Questionnaire studies are usually completed by the practitioner in one sitting, where they spend 15-45 minutes completing an online or paper questionnaire.

Q: How many current members are in the Network?

A: Nearly 6,000 dental professional are currently enrolled in the Network.

Q: Will I and/or my patients be compensated for participating in a study?

A: The practitioner will be remunerated for participating in the study. The amount is reflective of the time it takes to complete the forms and obtain consent. In some studies (specifically those that require follow-up) the patient will be compensated as well. The dollar amount varies with each study and is decided by the Executive Committee.

Q: Do I need to carry additional liability insurance if I participate in a study?

A: No. Because we are just collecting information based on the practitioners' normal routine and nothing outside the standard of care, there is no need to carry additional liability insurance when participating in a study.

Q: Who has access to the data provided during a study? How am I protected against HIPAA violations if the data are mishandled?

A: Only study personnel (i.e., Grant Principal Investigator, Study Principal Investigator, Investigators, Regional Coordinators, Coordinating Center personnel) and clinical site monitors will have access to the study data elements in the study database. Study personnel will include those who are on the approved IRB study protocol. All study personnel will have completed the required training elements for human subjects research certification.

Appropriate precautions are taken and procedures are followed to maintain confidentiality. These include use of unique study codes for participants, encryption of data for transmission to the Coordinating Center (CC), and password-protected computers for data storage. Compliance with all Institutional Review Board (IRB) regulations concerning data collection, data analysis, data storage, and data destruction are strictly observed.

Q: Do I get CE for participating in a study?

A: No, Continuing Education is not given for participating in the study; however, some regions do offer CE for the training portion of the study.

Q: How much extra paperwork should my staff expect during a study?

A: The amount of paper work varies with the study. Some studies require 1-2 pages of simple questions while others offer electronic forms that the patient completes. The forms can be easily completed while the patient is in the chair.

Q: Is there a minimum or maximum number of studies a member can participate during a given time period?

A: There is no minimum or maximum number of studies a member can participate in. The number of studies you are part of depends on your clinical interests and capacity. Not all studies appeal to every practitioner, and sometimes the time line for a study of interest doesn't work in terms of available time or staffing.