

Implementing the Shared Investigator Platform at the UFHCC

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1. Background

The University of Florida Health Cancer Center (UFHCC) Clinical Research Office (CRO) began implementing the Shared Investigator Platform (SIP) in late 2019. One of the first challenges identified was that the system did not align with internal workflows. Being a large academic institution, we have six Health Science Center Colleges, which each have dedicated research staff and specialties. The SIP system allows only one facility profile manager for the entire institution. After working with Cognizant to clear this initial structural hurdle, we began registering research personnel within SIP. Including investigators, pharmacists, and staff, we identified more than 100 research professionals needing registration. Obtaining support from busy investigators is one of the largest obstacles to overcome for successful implementation of SIP at our site. Initial SIP registration requires multiple logins to set up, secure, and activate each user account. These logins occur prior to users reaching a location within SIP where a delegate can be chosen. The SIP Registration Quick Guide provided by industry partners overlooks a number of key steps during initial registration that we need our users to perform locally. Another significant challenge with implementing SIP is communication with industry partners. During the early phase of SIP implementation, sponsors persisted in contacting our investigators directly while we were finalizing our internal process. This hindered efforts by causing site-specific needs to be overlooked. This ultimately increased the burden on investigators/users.

2. Goals

- Reduce burden on investigators
- Improve communication with industry sponsors
- Improve availability of site materials

3. Solutions and Methods

The UFHCC protocol activation coordinators (PAC) are dedicated to shepherding new studies throughout study start-up. Working closely with the PAC team has been an integral part of decreasing the burden on investigators; PAC identifies studies that will use SIP. PAC become liaisons for communication with sponsors by addressing SIP use expectations during the start-up process to reduce future delays at site initiation visits and site activation. Registration of new faculty/staff within SIP is now done during onboarding.

4. Outcomes

Collaboration and enhanced communication with industry sponsors has reduced incidences of duplicate SIP invitations, thus allowing UFHCC specific instructions be sent to our staff/investigators. This allows completion of initial account creation, registration, association, and delegation during one sitting, which reduces effort spent on SIP registration. At the time this abstract was written, over half (57 percent) of UFHCC research staff/investigators have registered in SIP. This evolving initiative requires additional effort to reach full registration compliance. However, we have yet to see efficiencies in protocol start-up

or communication with industry partners through the SIP program at this juncture. We have noticed that feasibility questionnaires are more appropriately routed to the correct staff for completion. We are confident that increased collaborations with industry sponsors will continue to help pave the way to a less burdensome experience with SIP.

5. Lessons Learned

Collaboration is key. The successful implementation of SIP at UFHCC relies on understanding how sites and sponsors will utilize the platform. Clarifying expectations early in the process is important to lessen the burden on site users and smooth integration of SIP into our site's workflow.

Figure:

