

Evolution of MSK's NCI Network Program

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1. Background

The Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) National Cancer Institute (NCI) Network Program (NNP) oversees all NCI-funded groups and consortiums operating at MSK. The NNP structure provides central oversight and enables economies of scale and shared standard operating procedures. The staff within the NNP are subject matter experts in NCI Central Institutional Review Board (CIRB) procedures, NCI Clinical Trials Monitoring Branch audit guidelines, and the standard working procedures of the NCTN Lead Groups and NCI Consortia. In 2021, we reported on centralizing regulatory management and initiating streamlined activation processes as well as Quality Assurance (QA)/Quality Control (QC) reviews of consent and eligibility. Since, the NNP has implemented a variety of initiatives to improve quality and cut costs.

As of February 24, 2025, the NNP portfolio is 214 research studies.

2. Goals

Our goal is to evaluate the efficacy and impact of key NNP initiatives.

3. Solutions and Methods

The program initiatives, timelines for implementation and key performance indicators (KPIs) are summarized below.

- Protocol activation
 - April 2021 implemented 15-day activation approach
 - KPI: time to activation
- Data timeliness and quality
 - March - July 2022- centralized data entry activities from disease management teams
 - KPI: delinquencies on CTSU DQP
 - KPI: volume of data related findings at time of monitor visit
 - May 2023 expanded our ability to centralize patients in long term follow (LTFU) from disease management teams
 - Metric: number of patients added to LTFU portfolio
- QA/QC
 - August 2021 risk-based monitoring for entire NCI Network Portfolio
 - KPI: volume of findings at time of monitor visit

4. Outcomes

MSK is in good standing with all NCI-funded groups and consortiums in terms of data submission, data quality, and auditing reports. We've improved our time to activation, data reporting timeliness and quality. We've also increased our LTFU patients under management.

5. Lessons Learned and Future Directions

This program is necessary for ensuring the focus, direction and efficient use of institutional resources while maintaining high quality research.

Category: Clinical Trial Operations (Trial Start-up, Regulatory, Data Management, IITs) – Completed Project

Over the past year, we have learned from other Cancer Center's across the country from monthly calls. We look forward to continued collaboration and sharing of best practices.

Continue to review our top audit findings and implement initiatives to address issues.

Figure

