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

On Ramp System: A Trailblazing Enhancement for Accelerating Clinical Trial Activation and Scaling Capacity

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1. Background
In March 2023, Moffitt Cancer Center established a maximum number of trials which could be worked on at one time within the activation workflow. While Moffitt Cancer Center's established lane system brought structure to clinical trial activation, inefficiencies persisted, this included bottlenecking trial flow and limiting capacity. Recognizing an opportunity to revolutionize this process, we developed the On Ramp system—a visionary approach to pre-load trials, enhance flexibility, and eliminate delays, empowering principal investigators (PIs) and programs to activate trials without waiting in queue.

2. Goals
Create a parallel, pre-activation workflow to optimize resource use and enable simultaneous trial processing. Increase trial volume entering activation, slash activation timelines, and prioritize trials based on phase, patient needs, accrual potential, and study readiness—unlocking unprecedented efficiency and capacity for Moffitt's research enterprise.

3. Solutions and Methods
This transformative initiative united a pioneering cross-functional coalition, including the Clinical Trials Office (CTO), Clinical Trials Business Office, Clinical Research Revenue Cycle, and Clinical Research Medical Directors (CRMDs). Effective July 2024, rather than one study assigned to a Lane moving through the entire activation workflow before the next study could proceed, this enhanced workflow allows trials to move into the On Ramp portion as other studies are in the Lane portion, specially, when the trial ahead is submitted to the scientific review committee. The On Ramp system, launched in July 2024, leverages real-time data from a CTO-managed Smartsheet, seamlessly integrated into a dynamic dashboard. This tool provides instant visibility into lane and ramp capacities across all programs, empowering staff with actionable insights. By pre-loading trials before the official activation clock (e.g., 90 days for industry trials), the process mitigates bottlenecks, accelerates startup, and informs proactive PI/CRMD prioritization—balancing fiscal viability, patient access, and program goals.

4. Outcomes
Since its inception 7 months ago, the On Ramp system has delivered remarkable gains: from July 2024 to February 2025, 88 trial calendars were released for activation, a leap from 65 in the prior year (July 2023–February 2024). Average activation time plummeted from 172 days to 115 days (Activation workflow initiation to contract signature)—a game-changing 33 percent reduction. This paradigm shift has boosted trial volume, enhanced patient access to cutting-edge therapies, and optimized trial selection and negotiation, setting a new standard for operational excellence.

5. Lessons Learned and Future Directions
The On Ramp system's success underscores the power of pre-activation workflows to dismantle traditional barriers. Ongoing refinement will focus on scaling capacity, refining prioritization algorithms, and expanding dashboard insights to further accelerate activation—solidifying Moffitt's leadership in clinical trial innovation.