

The Clinical Research Innovation Consortium: a Multi-Stakeholder Model for Scalable Innovation in Clinical Research

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1. Background

The Clinical Research Innovation Consortium (CRIC) is a multi-stakeholder collaboration that brings together academic research institutions, sponsors, and technology vendors to test, validate, scale, and standardize innovative solutions in clinical research. CRIC's collaborative model enables contributors from participating institutions to jointly evaluate technologies while maintaining local operational context.

2. Goals

CRIC focuses on demonstrating opportunities, applicability, reproducibility of technologies and processes across diverse settings, with early emphasis on identifying technology to support electronic data capture, patient eligibility and screening, decentralized clinical trials, shared metrics, and comparative technology pilots.

3. Solutions and Methods

Through a structured model of piloting, validation, and scaling, CRIC develops innovative operational models, identifies policy-level challenges, and advances best practices powered by technology. Each validation step has well defined key performance indicators (KPIs) to understand whether the innovation is improving processes. Consortium contributors support pilot execution by participating in cross-site workflows, defining operational KPIs, and providing site-level input to assess feasibility and reproducibility. KPIs are established at pilot initiation and informed by contributor input across participating sites to capture operational impact, workflow changes, and scalability.

4. Outcomes

CRIC is in the early stages of designing collaborative projects across decentralized clinical trials and demonstrating reproducibility with technology vendors for electronic health record to electronic data capture (EHR-2-EDC) and clinical trial matching. As of February 2026, there are two technology vendors, one sponsor, and five sites in CRIC's membership. Participating sites contribute operational data, qualitative feedback, and workflow insights to support cross-institutional evaluation of technologies such as EHR-2-EDC integration and clinical trial matching.

5. Lessons Learned and Future Directions

CRIC's objectives include improving operational efficiency, expanding patient access, leveraging artificial

intelligence, enhancing decision-making, fostering collaboration, and influencing policy and standards to transform the clinical research ecosystem into a more connected, efficient, and modern environment. Early CRIC activities underscore the importance of site-level operational engagement and shared metrics to ensure that innovations are transferable across diverse research environments.

Figure 1

An Opportunity to Improve a Fractured Ecosystem

