

National Clinical Trials Network Team Creation, Imagination and Innovation

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BACKGROUND

The quality of National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) research relies heavily on protocol compliance, timely and accurate data and specimen submissions and participant management. While quarterly assurance programs for routine monitoring exist for NCTN trials, there is a large gap in time between audit visits. In 2021, The Karmanos Cancer Institute, Clinical Trials Office, developed a dedicated NCTN team to oversee long-term/survival follow-up patients and ensure adherence to NCTN network group requirements.

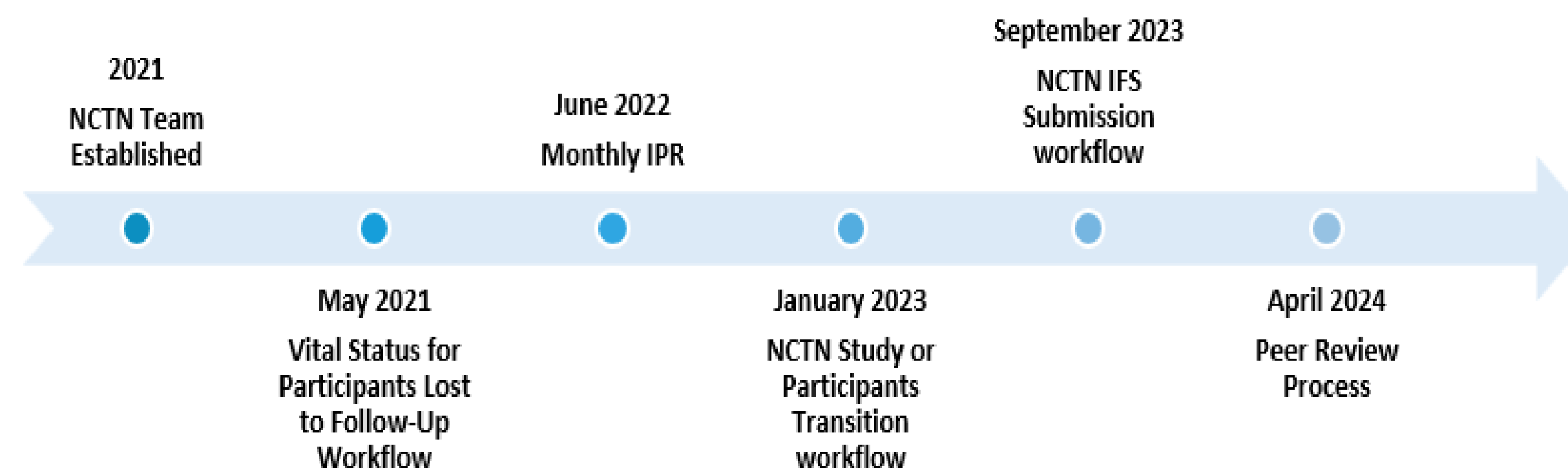
GOALS



SOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTED

To achieve these goals, the NCTN team implemented several structures workflows and quality assurance strategies:

1. Vital Status for Participants Lost to Follow-Up workflow
2. Monthly Institutional Performance Review (IPR) monitoring
3. NCTN Study or Participant(s) transition workflow
4. NCTN Initial Form Set (IFS) Submission workflow
5. NCTN Per-Review Process
6. Creation of a shared email address to streamline NCTN communication



OUTCOMES

These interventions have resulted in a sustained increase in network performance. Notably, over a one-year period, our NRG Oncology network assessment improved from 88.03 percent to 92.19 percent in June 2023. As of January 2026, KCI maintains a strong performance rating of 93.75 percent. The NCTN team now manages more than 20 trials involving over 100 long-term/survival follow-up patients.

Our commitment to quality assurance is supported by our IFS workflow and internal peer-review process, which has ensured more than 60 IFS timely submissions and baseline specimen verifications and 61 completed peer-reviews to date.

CONCLUSIONS

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