

CANCER RESEARCH UK

CLINICAL TRIALS REGISTRATION AND REPORTING SUMMARY

Monitoring our Clinical Research Committee (CRC) supported clinical trials' compliance with registration and reporting requirements

As the largest UK funder of academic clinical studies on cancer, we're committed at Cancer Research UK to making sure our trials are properly registered and the results reported. This is to ensure that people can more easily find what research is taking place in the UK and that researchers can derive the greatest possible insight from the data generated – maximising the benefit for cancer patients. Trial registration is a condition of REC approval and for clinical trials of medicines will soon become a legal requirement.

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring that any knowledge generated is made available promptly, requirements on registration of trials and reporting of results are part of the terms and conditions of our grants. As part of our dedication to transparency, we monitor compliance of these aspects of our funded trials and publish these results annually.

We set out the terms and conditions on which we make a grant to the host institution and grantholder, including:

Registration of trials	<p>Grantholders must register any CRUK-funded or endorsed clinical trial on a recognised trials registry such as the ISRCTN registry or the ClinicalTrials.gov registry before the first participant receives the first medical intervention in the trial.</p> <p>Grantholders must notify CRUK of the registration number no later than the time of the subsequent scientific milestone report</p>
Reporting of results	<p>Grantholders are required to make summary results (whether positive or negative) of their CRUK-funded or CRUK-endorsed trial publicly available, without unreasonable delay, and generally within 12 months of the end of trial (unless there is a scientifically justified longer time period).</p>

Key findings

The data for the following analysis was provided by the Clinical Trial Units as part of the annual Scientific Milestone Report submission in the summer of 2024.

Trial registration

Trials were considered to be registered if they were listed on a recognised trials registry, i.e. ClinicalTrials.gov, ISRCTN or the EU Clinical Trials Register (EudraCT).

Of the 153 CRC funded and endorsed trials that closed between 2014-2023 (trials still in follow-up and trials with end of trial not declared were not included in the analysis), 151 were registered on a recognised trial registry (99%). This compares to 99% registration rate for trials between 2012-2018 in the 2020 report.

Registration compliance was also conducted on the open trials (cut off – grant active as of February 2025) in the portfolio, to determine the number of trials registered. Across our full CRC funded and endorsed portfolio of 87 (grant active) studies, 85 were registered, resulting in a 98% registration rate. CRUK's portfolio compares favourably with data published by the HRA for trials registered in 2022 across all disease areas (n= 1545) with an overall 92% registration rate¹.



¹ <https://www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/policies-standards-legislation/research-transparency/research-transparency-annual-report-2021/clinical-trial-registration-audits/clinical-trial-registration-report-2022/>

Reporting results from trials

Grant holders are required to make summary results of their CRUK-funded or endorsed trials publicly available within 12 months of the end of trial (unless there is a scientifically justified longer time period). The results should be posted on the same registry as the trial was listed and the trials registry identifier should be used in publications to ensure the results are discoverable.

Trials were considered to be 'reported', if the trial results were reported with the relevant Registry ID in any of the following:

- Journal publications
- Abstracts
- Posters
- Presentations

Of the 153 trials analysed (closed between 2014-2023), 146 had results reported on the registry, or had published in a journal, abstract, poster or presentation (95%). However, 108 of these 146 trials quoted the registry ID, and the 38 other trials may have reported trial results without quoting the registry ID, however these have not been included as 'reported' in line with our terms and conditions for this analysis.

This suggests that 71% of the trials analysed had reported results. This compares to 66% (2012-2018) in the 2020 report. Of the 146 that reported, 97 (63% of all of the closed trials) did so within 12 months.

In most cases where studies were unreported, there were justifiable reasons including comment on analysis still taking place, registers being updated to state that results are unavailable, and international sponsors being responsible for updating the registries.

We're committed to ensuring a high level of registration and reporting of funded and endorsed trials and will be reporting compliance with these requirements on an ongoing annual basis. We will be working with our CTU network and the wider CRUK research community to drive change in this field and improve compliance rates of clinical trial reporting. Within our active portfolio, we very much encourage early reporting of results and many of our trials do report prior to the closing of the grant.

