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 absolutely committed at Cancer Research UK to making sure our trials are properly registered and the results reported. This is to ensure that researchers can derive the greatest possible insight from the data generated – maximising the benefit for cancer patients.

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 will be monitoring compliance of these aspects of our funded trials and publishing 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	The Grantholder must register any CRUK-funded or endorsed trial on a recognised trials registry, before the first patient is recruited. The Grantholder must notify CRUK of the registration number no later than the time of the subsequent scientific milestone report.
Reporting of results	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).

Key findings

In spring 2020, all Clinical Trial Units (CTUs) with trials funded or endorsed by the CRUK Clinical Research Committee were asked to report on trials with closure dates between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2018. A total of 85 trials were reported as closing in this timeframe (international-led trials, trials still in follow-up and trials with end of trial not declared were not included in the analysis).

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).

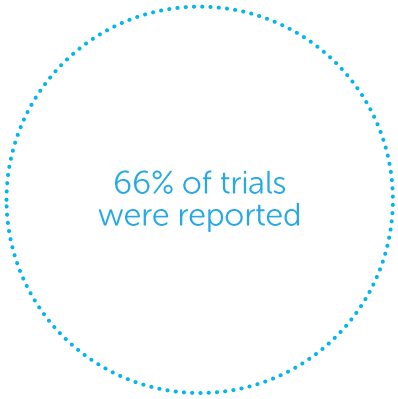
Of the 85 trials being analysed, 84 were registered, resulting in a 98% registration rate.

The one trial that was not registered in one of the specified registries was reported to be registered with the Netherlands trial registry.

Reporting results from trials

Of the 85 trials analysed, 56 had results reported on the registry, or had published in a journal, abstract, poster or presentation, quoting their trial registry ID. 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 66% of the trials analysed had reported results.



A reporting rate of 66% is not satisfactory. In some cases, CTUs provided reasons why trials had not yet been reported. These included comment on analysis still taking place and registers being updated to state that results are unavailable. Whilst some of the unreported studies had some justification, this was not universal, and it is clear more must be done to ensure that the results of trials are made available at the earliest opportunity.

To address the number of unreported trials, we will be working with our grantholders and infrastructure to determine reasons for lack of reporting and work with them to remove any barriers to reporting to improve compliance.

It should be noted that there are some limitations to the above analysis. The data has been provided by the CTUs and has not been verified by the CRUK team, and the data does not include timelines of registration and reporting. Timelines of registration and reporting are aspects that we will aim to include in the next data analysis.

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.