



Recruitment and Retention Breakout Session

May 31, 2006

METHODOLOGY

CORE SURVEY

Purpose: 1) Screening tool for clinical research networks; 2) Collect descriptive and contact information for IECRN Inventory Profile

Research Questions Answered:

What are networks funding sources, geographic coverage, and types of studies conducted?

Analysis: Quantitative analysis of 244 surveys



DESCRIPTIVE SURVEY

Purpose: Examine information on 62 networks' practices in recruitment and retention

Research Questions Answered:

1) What are characteristics of recruitment/retention practices, and, 2) do they vary by network age, primary study type, and/or primary funding source?

Analysis: Quantitative analysis of survey data in three key areas: planning, conduct, monitoring, and evaluation of recruitment/retention activities



FACILITATOR/BARRIER ANALYSIS

Purpose: Determine factors that facilitate and impede effective network functioning in recruitment and retention

Research Questions Answered:

(1) What are facilitators to effective network functioning?
(2) What are barriers to effective network functioning?

Analysis: Qualitative analysis of 34 interview transcripts



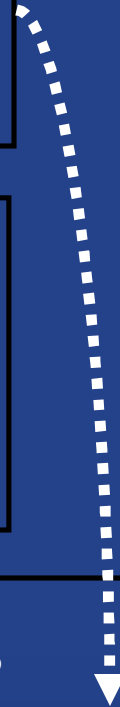
BEST PRACTICES STUDY

Purpose(s): Identify practices contributing to successful achievement of outcomes

Research Questions Answered:

1) What practices contribute to rapid accrual and retention, 2) to effectiveness in changing clinical practice?

Analysis: Qualitative analysis of in-depth interviews with 29 networks



Quantitative Descriptive Survey: Key Findings

- ▶ 62% of networks report recruitment relationships with community-based physicians
- ▶ 85% of network sites create their own recruitment communications materials rather than obtaining through network
- ▶ 92% of network sites communicate regularly with other sites about recruitment/retention successes and challenges
- ▶ Most common response to slow recruitment is extension of study's recruitment timeframe
- ▶ Most common response to low retention is contacting inactive participants
- ▶ Age of network did not have significant impact on extent of activities
- ▶ NIH-funded and clinical trials networks employ wider variety of activities



Barriers and Facilitators

▶ *Major Barriers to Successful Recruitment*

- Poor planning and preparation
- Poor PI and site selection
- Slow IRB review and approval
- Unanticipated and disruptive protocol amendments
- Insufficient and poor allocation of time and resources
- Competition between studies



Barriers and Facilitators

▶ *Major Facilitators of Successful Recruitment*

- Comprehensive and detail oriented planning and preparation
- Adequate training
- Realistic protocol design – based on input from stakeholders
- Carefully selected and ‘well supported’ PIs and sites
- Multidimensional recruitment communication and promotion
- Extensive community outreach



Barriers and Facilitators

- ▶ *Major Barriers to Successful Retention*
 - Poor communication with participants
 - Study staff turnover
 - Lack of sufficient participant commitment
 - Lack of sufficient incentives



Barriers and Facilitators

▶ *Major Facilitators of Successful Retention*

- Accountability of PI and study staff
- Strong, trusting, and open relationships with study personnel
- Well established and actively managed relationships with participants
- Demonstrated appreciation and perceived value of participants and study staff



Best Practices Study

- ▶ 29 Networks were selected for inclusion in the Phase III in-depth assessment
- ▶ Of which, 7 were cited for Accrual & Retention issues
- ▶ 5 common techniques were identified for ensuring participants were enrolled in clinical trials
 - Establish a partnership with the affected community
 - » Eg HSG
 - Ensure research offers a win-win scenario
 - » Eg RUPP-AN
 - Work with local experts to develop recruiting strategies
 - » Eg CDN
 - Adapt the recruitment strategy to the local context
 - » Eg EMNet
 - Take advantage of economies of scale
 - » Eg NCRN



Summary of Key Findings

- ▶ Careful planning
- ▶ Establish input and buy-in from PI study staff
- ▶ Adapt recruitment strategies to site idiosyncrasies
- ▶ Comprehensive and active community outreach
- ▶ Convey clear ‘Wins’ for study personnel and participants

