



Cancer Trials Australia Case Study

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Situation

Cancer Trials Australia (CTA) is a not-for-profit, member-driven, clinical trial network based in Melbourne, Australia. Specializing in clinical trial management services, CTA provides administrative, financial, and research governance services to its members.

CTA consists of 19 member organizations, comprising a mixture of public and private hospitals, and two independent research institutes. Given the depth and experience of its members, CTA provides sponsors with an integrated way to approach a large number of research institutions for conducting clinical trials.

Due to the collective nature of the network, it was imperative CTA implement a flexible Clinical Trial Management System (CTMS) that addressed the complex nature of the network, and met member security needs and unique reporting requirements. CTA's primary objectives included network-wide improvements in clinical trial information management, financial management, and reporting. To facilitate CTMS adoption, CTA also wanted a product that would ensure that research nurses and study coordinators could efficiently record necessary study and patient information.

Solution

After reviewing a number of local and international products, CTA selected Velos eResearch as the system to help achieve its goals. Velos eResearch was the only CTMS uniquely positioned to provide both product functionality and exceptional flexibility. "Velos eResearch has the key elements and foundation necessary to accommodate CTA's organizational requirements," said Marcus Clark, CEO of CTA. "The product's clever design, structure, and flexibility enabled CTA to configure Velos eResearch to better meet the needs of the organization and our members."

Separate but Centralized

CTA required a solution that would allow member organizations to share common study elements across the member network, but would also ensure that site-specific information such as calendars and charge masters would be visible only to CTA and the responsible institution. Velos eResearch's configurable model made it easy to meet this need. CTA staff creates the patient visit schedule once, and then shares it across the multiple organizations involved in a particular study. The participating study sites are provided with a high-level view of shared data, but they cannot make any changes to common records or access restricted information.

Velos eResearch's study document management functionality is used to manage access to relevant study information across participating organizations. Depending on the nature of a document, it can either be made available internally, such as site-specific informed consent forms, or be shared across all sites involved in the study, such as the study protocol.

With Velos eResearch, organizations can maintain independent workflows while sharing connectivity to a centralized platform. Individual institutions have site-specific code lists, maintain independent schedules to accommodate different fee structures, and establish their own milestones. “The extra layer of protection Velos eResearch provides is essential to meeting CTA’s need for organizational privacy,” Clark said.

Internationalization and Localization

CTA can configure text within Velos eResearch to meet local language needs, including labels, messages, and buttons. Internationalization, including currency, units of measure, and date formats is also supported.

Enhanced Financials

Velos eResearch’s ability to automatically produce per patient budgets from a schedule of assessment was an attractive feature for CTA. A stronger focus on scheduling has resulted in more accurate per patient budgets. This is crucial to CTA, especially when negotiating with sponsors on behalf of its members. It is also crucial to members to ensure financial solvency when agreeing to participate in a trial.

Velos eResearch has allowed CTA to upload multiple charge masters, which ensures organizational fee structures are addressed. All fees can then be updated to reflect site-specific costs. CTA can create budgets for each institution using one calendar, reducing the amount of data entry.

CTA uses the lead study organization’s schedule as a basis for creating other participating sites’ schedules by applying modifications as per organizational fee requirements. Each organization’s study calendar and patient schedule have their own milestones, allowing each site’s visit payments to be easily tracked.

Robust Reporting

Given the geographic separation of member sites, Velos eResearch’s web-based platform eliminates lag times that are often associated with manual reporting. CTA can easily monitor each participating site’s progress remotely, allowing it to be kept abreast of the latest study activities at all times.

Velos eResearch also provides CTA with the ability to create custom reports. In addition to the standard reports that come pre-packaged within the application, CTA has created a number of customized reports to address local regulatory and organizational requirements. These reports easily fit into Velos eResearch’s design due to its flexible architecture. By leveraging existing Velos eResearch reports, CTA has also been able to create custom reports to ensure that each site’s data entry occurs in a timely manner. The Visit Data Entry Overdue report, for example, allows Research Nurse Managers to check on staff compliance activity. Access to real-time data and superior reporting capabilities translates to improved information accuracy and a reduction in the number

of manual processes, such as follow-ups, that are required to confirm whether visits have been attended or monitored.

Superior Workflow Adaptation

Velos eResearch's simple and intuitive workflow model ensure CTA's primary end-users, study research nurses, have a high adoption rate. Utilization of the application's configurable security framework has ensured research nurses only see menus and options applicable to their role. "It was important that the research nurses find the system straightforward and user-friendly," Clark said.

Using the Schedule page, a feature that allows research nurses to view a daily list of scheduled patient visits, CTA research nurses can review the studies each patient is associated with and the procedures that need to be performed during the visit. The Daily Schedule page also allows users to easily update the status of the visit as well as the patient's status on the study, decreasing the effort required to enter patient data. "CTA research nurses are finding Velos eResearch simple to use which is resulting in greater compliance and improved real-time data collection," explained Clark.

Conclusion

Adapting to CTA's unique requirements was a great test of Velos eResearch's configurability and flexibility. Through close collaboration, Velos assisted CTA in migrating data from a variety of databases and spreadsheets to Velos eResearch, achieving centralized data capture accompanied with appropriate security protocols for multiple member access. Velos eResearch has also provided superior analysis and improved financial management.