



# NCI CIRB Initiative

Alliance Spring Group Meeting  
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# Agenda

- **Overview of the CIRB**
- **Key definitions**
- **Steps for enrolling in the CIRB**
- **Opening a study**
- **After opening a study**
- **Benefits of the CIRB**

# Overview of the CIRB

- **Goal**
  - *Reduce the significant local administrative burdens of multi-site trials while maintaining a high level of human subjects protection*
- **Three CIRBs**
  - *Adult CIRB – Late Phase Emphasis*
    - Began reviews of Cooperative Group Phase 3 treatment trials in 2001
  - *Adult CIRB – Early Phase Emphasis*
    - Began reviews of phase 0, 1, 2 trials late 2013
  - *Pediatric CIRB*
    - Began reviews of COG phase 2, 3 and pilot trials in 2004

# Overview of the Use of the CIRB

- **All studies on the CIRB menu can be opened by PIs at institutions enrolled in the CIRB.**
- **There is no requirement to specify which CIRBs an institution will be using.**
  - *Institutions can only open studies that they have access to based on Network Group affiliations.*
- **Timelines for enrollment by institutions in the NTCN and ETCTN will be announced by NCI. The CIRB encourages institutions to enroll on an ongoing basis.**
- **The CIRB menu will not be expanded to include Group studies that were not previously reviewed by the CIRB.**
- **There is no fee to use the CIRB.**

# Overview of the CIRB Model

- **As of January 1, 2013 the CIRB operates under an independent model for review of NCI-sponsored research**
- **What is the “independent model”?**
  - *CIRB continues to review studies as before*
  - *CIRB becomes IRB of Record for investigators*
    - **Local IRB has no review responsibilities**
  - *CIRB reviews institution’s local context considerations before approving new study at institution*
  - *CIRB reviews locally-developed recruitment/educational materials; locally-occurring unanticipated problems or serious or continuing non-compliance; responds to investigator/institution questions*
  - *Institution is responsible for monitoring conduct of research*
    - **Includes reporting concerns to CIRB**

# Signatory Institution

- **The Signatory Institution in the CIRB Initiative is the institution whose Signatory Official signs the Authorization Agreement and Division of Responsibilities document**
- **The Signatory Institution's responsibilities are outlined in the Division of Responsibilities**
- **The Signatory Institution must have a Federalwide Assurance (FWA)**
- **The Signatory Institution must have independent oversight of the research**

# Signatory Institution's Component Institution(s)

- **The Signatory Institution's Component Institution operates under a different name than the Signatory Institution but the Signatory Institution has legal authority for the Component Institution**
- **The following information for a Component Institution must be the same as the Signatory Institution:**
  - ***FWA number***
  - ***Local context considerations***
    - **If the local context considerations are not the same, the institution cannot be a Component Institution**
  - ***Boilerplate language and institutional requirements***
  - ***The office that monitors the conduct of research***

## Signatory Institution's Affiliate Institution(s)

- **The following information for an Affiliate Institution must be the same as the Signatory Institution:**
  - ***Local context considerations***
    - **If the local context considerations are not the same, the institution cannot be an Affiliate Institution**
  - ***Boilerplate language and institutional requirements***
  - ***The office that monitors the conduct of research***



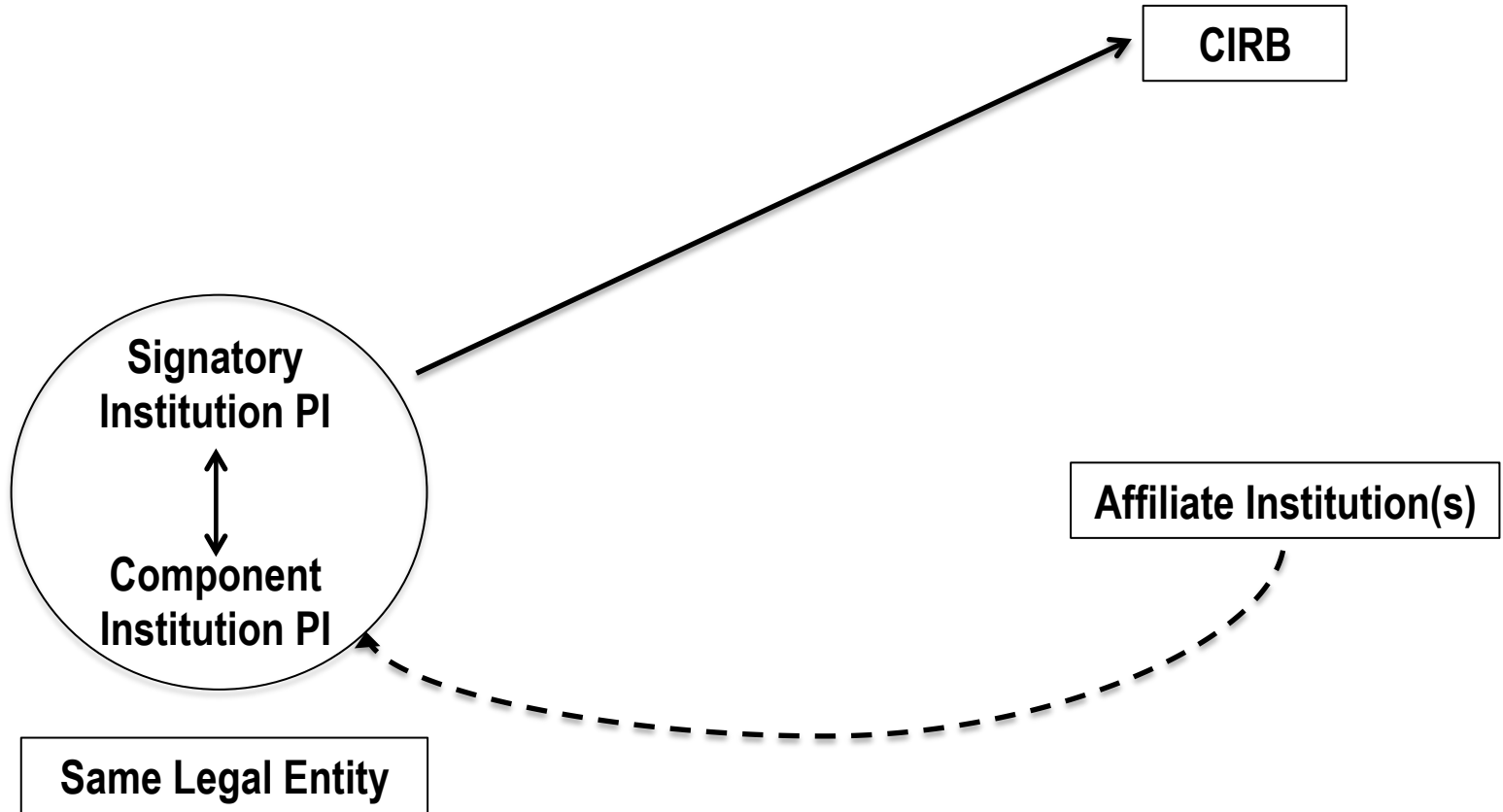
# Institutional Relationships

- **In the CIRB Initiatives, any Network institution can be Signatory Institutions. They can also be a Component or an Affiliate Institution of a Signatory Institution.**
- **All institutions involved in a grant funded arrangement should determine how using the CIRB is appropriate for each institution.**

# Signatory Institution's Principal Investigators

- **The Signatory Institution's Principal Investigators (SIPI) must have a working relationship with the the Signatory Institution.**
- **An SIPI may be located at a Component Institution because the Component Institution is part of the same legal entity as the Signatory Institution.**
- **An SIPI may not be from a Signatory Institution's Affiliate Institution.**

# Principal Investigator Relationships to CIRB



# Local Context Considerations

- **What constitutes the CIRB's review of local context?**
  - ***Consideration of local population for any unique requirements***
  - ***Confirmation that any institutional requirements, local and state laws are appropriately addressed***
  - ***Consideration if investigator has sufficient time to conduct research safely***
  - ***Consideration if investigator has an adequate number of qualified supporting research staff***
  - ***Consideration if facilities are adequate to conduct research and protect study participants***
  - ***Confirmation that boilerplate language for the consent form complies with Federal regulations***

# Consent Form Review

- **CIRB Review of the Consent Form**
  - ***CIRB reviews and approves the model consent form as supplied by the Study Chair for each study***
  - ***CIRB reviews and approves the institution's boilerplate language as supplied in the Annual Signatory Institution Worksheet***
  - ***Principal Investigators have the responsibility to insert the CIRB-approved boilerplate language into the CIRB-approved model consent form***

## Division of Responsibilities under CIRB Model

### CIRB

- *Initial Review*
- *Continuing Review*
- *Amendment Review*
- *Conducts reviews for institutional local context considerations*
- *Reviews/determines Unanticipated Problems both locally-occurring and trial-wide impact*

### Signatory Institution

- *Ensures safe and appropriate conduct of research at the institution*
- *Maintains records for CIRB-approved studies per network/program guidelines*

# Institutional Considerations Prior to Enrollment

- **Identify the Signatory Institution**
- **Verify that any institutions relying on the Signatory Institution's IRB meet the CIRB's definition of a Component Institution or an Affiliate Institution**
- **Identify the individual(s) who will be the Signatory Institution Primary Contact(s)**
- **Review the information required by the CIRB to assess your institution's local context considerations**
- **If you have any questions, contact the CIRB Helpdesk before you begin the steps for Enrollment**

## 6 Easy Steps – Summary of Enrollment

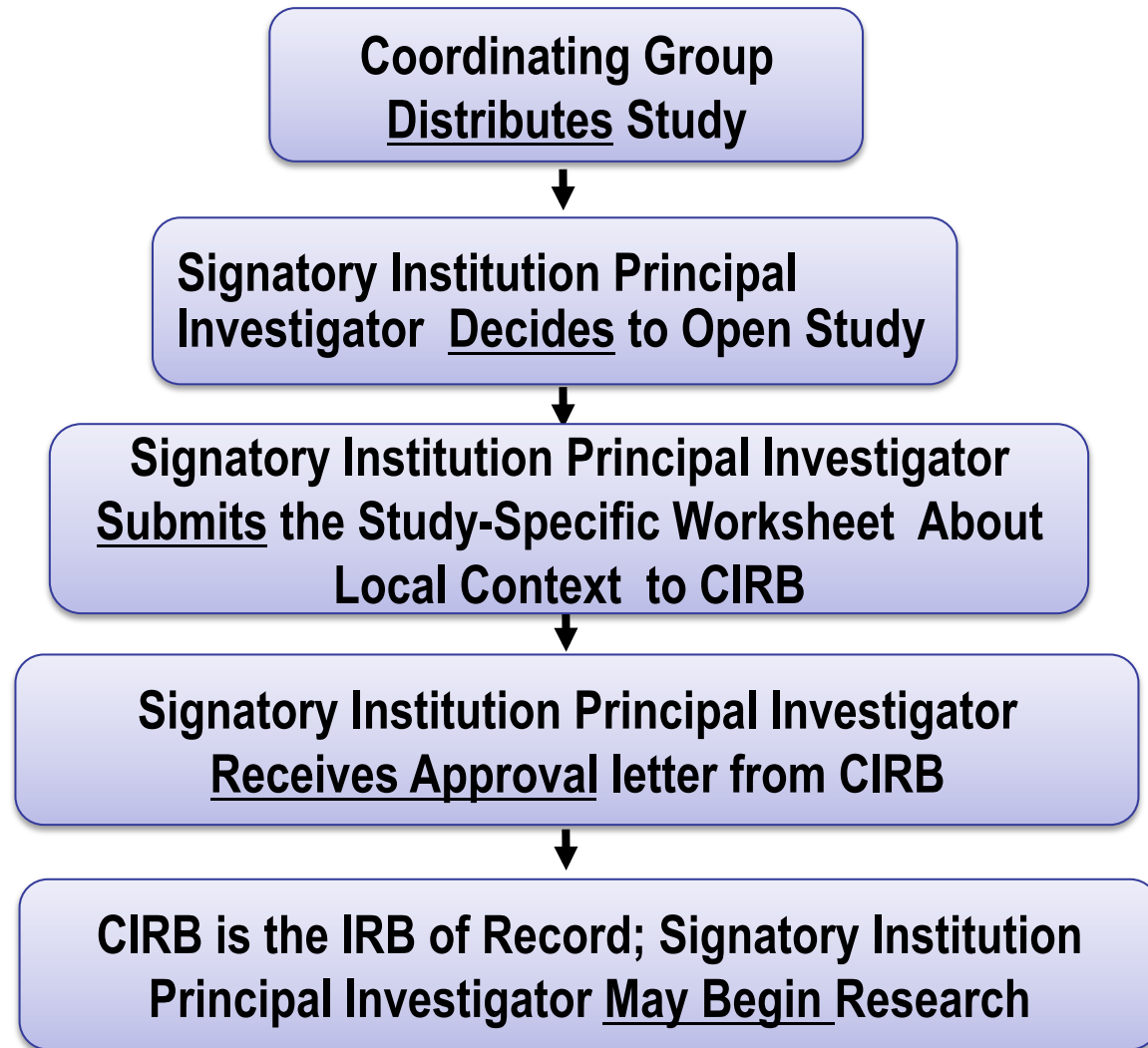
- 1. Complete and submit the NCI CIRB Signatory Institution Enrollment Form**
  - *Located on the CIRB website (<https://www.ncicirb.org>) using the “Enrollment Packet” link under the heading “How to Join”*
  - *Provides general information about your Signatory Institution and any Component or Affiliate Institution as well as contact information for key personnel*
  - *Submit via email to the CIRB Helpdesk at [ncicirbcontact@emmes.com](mailto:ncicirbcontact@emmes.com)*
  
- 2. Complete and submit signed Authorization Agreement and Division of Responsibilities document (requires signature of Signatory Official)**
  - *Located on the CIRB website (<https://www.ncicirb.org>) using the “Enrollment Packet” link under the heading “How to Join”*
  - *Submit hardcopy signatures via mail to the CIRB Operations Office*



## 6 Easy Steps – Summary of Enrollment (cont.)

- 3. Modify your Institution's Federalwide Assurance (FWA), if applicable**
- 4. Complete and submit the Annual Signatory Institution Worksheet About Local Context via IRBManager**
  - Contains descriptions of state and local laws, including required boilerplate language*
- 5. Complete and submit the Annual Principal Investigator Worksheet About Local Context via IRBManager**
  - Provides research activity descriptions*
- 6. Receive letter from the CIRB confirming that enrollment is complete and may begin to open studies**

# After Enrollment: Opening a New Study



## After Opening a Study

- **Information the CIRB needs after a study is open**
  - **Reports of potential unanticipated problems**
  - **Reports of potential serious or continuing noncompliance**
  - **Notification of a Change of PI for CIRB review and approval**
  - **Submission of locally-developed materials and translations for CIRB review and approval prior to use**
  - **Notification of study closure**

# Unanticipated Problems - Definition

- **Federal regulations do not define Unanticipated Problems**
  - **FDA and OHRP have issued guidance documents that define Unanticipated Problems as:**
    - **Unexpected (in nature, frequency, severity)**
    - **Related or possibly related to participation in the research, and**
    - **Suggests greater risk to subjects or others than previously known**

**OHRP:** “Guidance on Reviewing and Reporting Unanticipated Problems Involving Risks to Subjects or Others and Adverse Events” (January 15, 2007). <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/AdvEvtntGuid.htm>

**FDA:** “Adverse Event Reporting to IRBs – Improving Human Subject Protection” (January 2009). <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM126572.pdf>

# Potential Local Unanticipated Problems

- **Occur at or are limited to a particular institution and do not impact the trial nationally**
- **Are identified by the PI, institution, or local compliance offices usually directly from the participant or from information received about a particular participant or research activity**
- **Are reported to the CIRB by the PI, including a management plan**
- **Are reviewed by the Local Context Subcommittee or forwarded for review by the convened CIRB**
- **If determined to be an unanticipated problem, are reported to OHRP, and when applicable, FDA, and institutional officials at CTEP and the local institution**

# Hypothetical Situation 1

- **A PI from Big Medical Center A reports the following**
  - **Per the protocol, the participant was to be given a dose of Drug X, the investigational agent, at 5mg/kg**
  - **The participant experienced a severe allergic reaction immediately after the administration of the investigational agent**
- **Is the incident/experience unexpected given the research procedures?**
- **Is the incident/experience related/possibly related to participation in the research?**
- **Does the incident/experience suggest a greater risk of harm to participants or others?**

# Hypothetical Situation 1

- A PI from Big Medical Center A reports the following
  - Per the protocol, the participant was to be given a dose of Drug X, the investigational agent, at 5mg/kg
  - The participant experienced a severe allergic reaction immediately after the administration of the investigational agent
- Is the incident/experience unexpected given the research procedures? – No, consent form lists the risk of the potential serious allergic reaction
- Is the incident/experience related/possibly related to participation in the research? – Yes, the experience of the allergic reaction was possibly related to the increased dosage of the investigational agent
- Does the incident/experience suggest a greater risk of harm to participants or others? – No, because the harm was already known and provided to the study participants as part of the consent form
- Since the event is not unexpected and does not suggest greater risk of harm, this should not be reported as an unanticipated problem

# Potential Local Noncompliance

- **Occurs at or are limited to a particular institution and do not impact the trial nationally**
- **Includes complaints, protocol deviations, and audit findings**
- **Is reported to the CIRB by the PI, including a management plan**
- **If determined to be serious or continuing noncompliance, is reported to OHRP, and when applicable, FDA, as well as institutional officials at CTEP and the local institution**



## Hypothetical Situation 2

- **A PI from Big Medical Center A reports the following**
  - **Per the protocol, the participant was to be given a dose of Drug X, the investigational agent, at 5mg/kg, but due to an error in calculation was given a dose of 10mg/kg**
  - **There was no noticeable impact on the participant**
- **Is the incident/experience noncompliance?**
- **Is it serious noncompliance?**
- **Is it continuing noncompliance?**

## Hypothetical Situation 2

- A PI from Big Medical Center A reports the following
  - Per the protocol, the participant was to be given a dose of Drug X, the investigational agent, at 5mg/kg, but due to an error in calculation was given a dose of 10mg/kg
  - There was no noticeable impact on the study participant
- Is the incident/experience noncompliance? – Yes, the PI failed to follow the CIRB-approved protocol
- Is it serious noncompliance? – No, there was no result that meets the definition of serious
- Is it continuing noncompliance? – No, there is no indication that there is a pattern of noncompliance or a systematic and habitual disregard of the requirements or decisions of the CIRB or of Federal regulations
- This does not require reporting as serious or continuing noncompliance

## Hypothetical Situation 3

- **A PI from Medical Center A reports the following**
  - **Per the protocol, the participant was to be given a dose of Drug X, the investigational agent, at 5mg/kg, but due to an error in calculation was given a dose of 15mg/kg**
  - **The participant experienced more severe nausea than is typically observed, requiring administration of an antiemetic and an additional day's stay in the hospital**
- **Is the incident/experience noncompliance?**
- **Is it serious noncompliance?**
- **Is it continuing noncompliance?**

# Hypothetical Situation 3

- A PI from Big Medical Center A reports the following
  - Per the protocol, the participant was to be given a dose of Drug X, the investigational agent, at 5mg/kg, but due to an error in calculation was given a dose of 15mg/kg
  - The participant experienced more severe nausea than is typically observed, requiring administration of an antiemetic and an additional day's stay in the hospital
- Is the incident/experience noncompliance? – Yes, the PI failed to follow the CIRB-approved protocol
- Is it serious noncompliance? – Yes, the participant experienced more severe adverse events requiring a prolonged hospital stay
- Is it continuing noncompliance? – No, there is no indication that there is a pattern of noncompliance or a systematic and habitual disregard of the requirements or decisions of the CIRB or of Federal regulations
- This should be reported to the CIRB to make a determination based on the potential serious noncompliance

## Reporting Change of PI

- **Change of PI is reported to the CIRB using the Study-Specific Worksheet About Local Context**
- **The new PI submits a Study-Specific Worksheet and indicates that the submission is a Change of PI**
- **The CIRB provides an approval letter to the new PI noting the change from the previous PI**

# Submission of Locally-Developed Material and Translations

- **Locally-developed material and translations are submitted using the Locally-Developed Materials Submission Form found on the CIRB website as a Word document**
- **Review of translations require the following documents be submitted:**
  - *CIRB-approved version of the English document*
  - *Translated document*
  - *Copy of translator's certificate of accuracy*
- **CIRB provides an approval letter for the submitted material.**

# Study Closures

- **Study closures should be submitted to the CIRB in IRBManager when the following criteria are met:**
  - *The study is closed to accrual at the Signatory Institution and all Component and/or Affiliate Institutions relying on the Signatory Institution for this study.*
  - *All study participants on this study have completed study intervention(s) and follow-up activities OR no study participants were enrolled.*
  - *There will be no further research activities for this study (this includes recruitment, enrollment, data collection, data analysis, data submission, etc.).*
- **CIRB provides a letter approving the closure.**

# Benefits of Using the CIRB

- **Benefits patients and research participants**
  - *Oncology-specific, multidisciplinary Boards*
  - *Dedicated review for study participant protections*
  - *Opens trials faster, supports completing trials faster*
  - *Easier to open trials for rare diseases*
- **Benefits for investigators and research staff**
  - *Eliminates back-and-forth with IRB to gain study approval*
  - *Eliminates frequent submissions to IRB for amendments, continuing reviews, adverse events, etc.*
  - *Eliminates completing IRB application and duplicating IRB submission packets*
- **Benefits for IRB members**
  - *Saves IRB members' time and effort by eliminating full board review of network/program trials*



## Contacting the CIRB

**Helpdesk Email: [ncicirbcontact@emmes.com](mailto:ncicirbcontact@emmes.com)**

**Helpdesk Toll-free Number: 1-888-657-3711**  
**(May request a specific staff member when calling)**

**Fax Number: 1-301-560-6538**

**CIRB Website: <http://www.ncicirb.org>**