Category: Trial Start Up/Closure – Work in Progress

Increasing Activation Transparency with Research Insights Dashboards

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1. Background

In 2016, the Yale School of Medicine and the Yale Cancer Center (YCC) identified clinical trial activation timelines as a strategic improvement opportunity. The intended goal of improving activation timelines is to advance medical care and research, to enhance Yale's position as a competitive Medical School and Comprehensive Cancer Center, and to ultimately improve patient access to clinical trials within the Yale Medicine network. The Protocol Activation Cycle Empowerment (PACE) team is working with Forte to build a tool for displaying study activation progress in real-time for the investigators, disease teams and sub-process owners. Data for each activation sub-process are expected to be entered in real-time into OnCore, Yale's Clinical Trial Management System. These data are then displayed as interactive charts called "Protocol Activation Dashboards" in Research Insights.

2. Goals

The goal of implementing the activation dashboards is to increase the data transparency between the PACE team, sub-process owners, disease teams, study teams, departmental and Cancer Center leadership. Real-time availability of the data provides study team members the opportunity to identify roadblocks and challenging steps within the activation process and address them appropriately to ensure that the protocol activation timeline proceeds on schedule.

3. Solutions and Methods

The PACE project team recently introduced three study activation dashboards. The first dashboard offers a past performance view to assess the time it takes to complete an activation sub-process compared to the target duration. The second dashboard offers a portfolio view to assess how protocols in a disease team's portfolio are progressing towards study activation in comparison to the expected target durations. The third dashboard offers a protocol-specific view to assess how each sub-process is progressing for a selected protocol compared to the target durations.

4. Outcomes and Future Directions

To date, 49 stakeholders have been provided access to the protocol activation dashboards. The PACE team attended several disease team meetings, clinical trial manager meetings and cancer center leadership meetings to orient users to the dashboard system and to demonstrate features and functionality. The disease teams have started to incorporate the dashboards into their weekly protocol review discussions.

Yale looks forward to incorporating feedback from the investigators, the research teams, and from leadership to further optimize the current dashboards and create additional dashboards as needed. In the future, the activation task list structure will be rolled out to all departments within the Yale School of Medicine.