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The Study Statusboard: Crafting a Clinical Trial Symphony for Success

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1. Background

The Office of Clinical Research at Fox Chase Cancer Center (FCCC), like many cancer centers, faced challenges to meet activation timelines and accrual goals. To overcome roadblocks, we sought an efficient system to support more accurate and consistent oversight. The existing process relied on manual weekly updates in Excel from staff across teams as well as many duplicative and fragmented meetings. Despite the efforts, processes and communications remained siloed between key stakeholders giving rise to the development of the Study Statusboard. This interactive tool helped integrate data, unified stakeholders and established a path of actionable clarity.

2. Goals

The Study Statusboard was created to address deficiencies and benefit everyone, from the C-suite to the study staff. High-level Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) connect seamlessly to granular details, ensuring accuracy and transparency. Leveraging source data integration and automation, the Study Statusboard targets two key endpoints pivotal to managing a successful clinical trial program: (1) Clinical trial activations and (2) portfolio management.

3. Solutions and Methods

The Study Statusboard tool sets itself apart by its ability to extract key data from the source points, reducing manual and duplicative entries while creating a centralized and accessible real-time resource. Designed with multiple layers and perspectives, the tool empowers staffing teams and management alike by providing visualized high-level insights that can be drilled down to reveal the detailed data and sources.

Activation pipeline stages addressed workload bottlenecks. Each pipeline stage drills down into a report in which the respective studies can be reviewed to ensure accuracy and allow for more streamlined action and communication. The report pulls in all key activation timeline milestones alongside alerts, which are all pulled, triggered, and linked directly from source systems.

The tool provided a compass for portfolio management by incorporating established key criteria into disease sites, which contribute to institution-wide achievement. The system effectively drove management success by allowing for portfolio expansion only after achieving set goals. Within months of implementation, the institution reached its portfolio targets, leading to higher quality trials better suited for our patients.

4. Outcomes

The Study Statusboard, along with process enhancements, brought time to activation (TTA) from 2021 median of 263 days to under 90 days median in 2023. Treatment trial accruals increased by 26.1 percent from 2022 and 90.2 percent in 2021.

Activation visualization streamlined study entry into the pipeline while reports empowered oversight of the process. The Study Statusboard data showcases our newfound ability in achieving once deemed unattainable goals.

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Rapid portfolio management success was achieved within a few months and has led to a readjustment of ambitions, and new goals were met with equally quick achievement.

5. Lessons Learned and Future Directions

The Study Statusboard is continuously evolving, building on the complexity and integration of this tool. There are planned enhancements to incorporate staffing capacity and projections, diversity and inclusion goals, and additional flexibility and filtering to optimize for more perspectives and use-cases. The Study Statusboard is continually being fine-tuned as a central, dynamic tool that not only reacts to today's needs but also anticipates the needs for tomorrow.

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