

Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute (ACTSI) Clinical Research Network (CRN)

Cost Recovery FAQ

In response to programmatic changes now required by the NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), the national Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) programs will no longer be able to provide support to clinical research studies at no cost to investigators. The 50 year-old NIH model of supporting clinical research at no cost is being phased out in preference to a model that recovers the cost of research services being provided. Therefore, the ACTSI is now required to transition to a model that either ceases to provide these services or charges investigators a fee for these services. The ACTSI is choosing to continue providing these important services at cost to studies that will utilize CRN resources. As part of the NIH-imposed changes on all CTSA's, cost recovery strategies are required to be in place for our next ACTSI grant renewal to NIH/NCATS, which is due in May 2016.

1 I have a federally funded study that is conducted in the CRN. Why do I have to pay for that support now? What happens if I don't have any money in my budget to pay for CRN resources?

A. Due to new budget restrictions imposed by the NIH, ACTSI is required to phase out direct support of clinical research. We can no longer include most of the costs of conducting clinical research (e.g. research nursing, lab expenses, etc.) in our federal grant budget. We are required to recover these costs from other sources including the investigators grant. We recommend you internally rebudget and also request additional support from your funding agency and/or other sources. We will assist you in developing a budget for the CRN support, and work with your sponsor as possible. We are also exploring additional options we may have to defray some of these costs; however this is not guaranteed and funding will need to be identified over time for such cost-sharing. For now, we recommend that you begin to plan to pay for full costs for CRN activities.

2 Why are you charging for submission and review fees for all studies?

A. The CRN provides the highest quality research services, which includes a scientific review of the protocol. The costs for conducting the review and approval of all studies are also not allowable in our federal grant budget and thus must be recovered. Again, we are exploring options to help defray some of these costs for investigators and will continue to update our investigators accordingly. We are using cost structures based on actual costs in personnel and resources that have been successfully implemented by other CRN programs across the country

3 How do I include these costs in my federal budget? Can someone help me develop a budget for CRN services?

A. Absolutely – that's why we're here! When developing your grant budget, please use the CRN rates published at the time of your grant submission to determine costs. The CRN administration is available to assist with budget development for our services before you submit your grant. Please be prepared to share your protocol and resource needs so that we may determine what level of services should be included in the budget. Based on this change mandated by NIH, all NIH Institutes and Centers are expecting such costs to be included in budgets going forward that utilize

4 Will these rates change every year?

A. Yes, a requirement for cost recovery service centers is for rates to be reviewed and updated annually. Please plan accordingly when developing your budget. The key is communication with CRN staff prior to your grant or project submission to a funding agency.

5 Is there a way to subsidize the support provided?

A. We are exploring options that will allow us to help defray some of the costs for investigators. We will be announcing additional information about this CRN cost-sharing soon as it is available.