

# Streamline clinical trial supplies to reduce costs

Clinical studies are becoming increasingly complex. These complexities are driving up the cost of traditional clinical supply chain services that depend on forecasts, which often fail to respond efficiently to unplanned study changes. Innovative and flexible approaches to clinical supply chain management, such as the ones delivered by **CSM**, a Clinigen company, can help keep a study's costs low and predictable.

**W**ith Brexit on the horizon, and the Covid-19 pandemic magnifying the industries' existing challenges and introducing new ones, choosing the right strategy is essential in order to maintain flexibility, both for packaging and labelling, and comparator sourcing.

Reducing clinical trial costs requires a complete mindset change and the adoption of new processes. Working together with a clinical trial supply partner can help facilitate change, which results in significant savings and helps ensure clinical trial continuity and success.

## Packaging and labelling as needed

As packaging and labelling only takes a couple of hours to complete, the 'on-demand' method enables trials to be up and running in just a few weeks, even with the addition of any unforeseen changes. It can also significantly shorten the period between protocol approval and first-patient-in.

*“Working together with a clinical trial supply partner can help facilitate change, which results in significant savings and helps ensure clinical trial continuity and success.”*

Preparing medication only when it is needed allows changes without incurring additional costs or committing the entire drug supply up front. Using a flexible supply model can eliminate both rework and unplanned expenses due to drug waste.



With its customised supply solutions, CSM can help streamline clinical trials to reduce cost.

Packaging and labelling on demand particularly benefits clinical trials with expensive and limited supply medicines, as a smaller quantity is needed. It also provides flexibility in product use.

## Flexible comparator sourcing

The increasing complexity in trials makes it even more important to engage early for sourcing comparator drugs; the earlier the engagement with a strategic partner, the more time there is available to plan a

flexible approach to comparator sourcing that meets a study's exact needs.

Sourcing strategies can range from traditional bulk purchases of comparator products, on a lead time of several months, sourced from a single location with an appropriate flexible packaging,

labelling and distribution strategy; sourcing product 'on-demand', providing smaller quantities on a more frequent basis but allowing for greater flexibility to adjust forecasts in line with the ever-changing needs for the trial; and 'rapid-source' for the swift sourcing of products in smaller quantities to meet unexpected patient demand, shipments held up at customs, or even a site temperature excursion combined with an 'on-demand' labelling strategy.

Any one of these, or a combination of all three, can be planned to ensure a robust sourcing strategy is implemented from the onset.

## Manage trials efficiently

Conducting trials will not get simpler and costs are likely to continue to climb. Working together with one global provider of clinical trial management services and one point of contact can easily help eliminate unnecessary elements of complexity from a clinical trial, and reduce costs as a result.

The right partner will invest time in the company and the project, devise a strategy that meets the trial's needs with built-in flexibility, and develop the right sourcing strategy for the length of the trial.

As part of Clinigen Group, CSM offers global end-to-end clinical trial services. With over 20 years of global experience in comparator sourcing, and specialised packaging and labelling solutions, such as 'on-demand' and 'direct-to-patient', CSM can help streamline every clinical trial no matter how complex it may be. ●

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