

Clinical trial recruitment source launch checklist

A checklist for research sites launching new recruitment sources, including routing, approved language, duplicate handling, attribution, ownership, quality review, and shutdown criteria.

How to use this checklist

Every new recruitment source should launch with clear language, routing, attribution, ownership, duplicate handling, quality review, and stop criteria.

Quick checks

- Do not launch a source until routing, owner alerts, and source attribution are tested.
- Approved language, referral expectations, and patient handoff boundaries should be clear before outreach begins.
- Source quality should be reviewed by movement and readiness, not only by raw inquiry count.

Confirm approved language and expectations

- Before a source launches, confirm the approved recruitment language, study description, contact path, privacy boundary, and what the source is allowed to say about the study.
- The source should not promise eligibility, enrollment, compensation, medical benefit, or a specific appointment outcome unless the approved materials support that language.

Test routing before volume arrives

- The checklist should verify where inquiries land, which fields arrive, whether source attribution is captured, who gets notified, how duplicates are detected, and what happens if a record is incomplete.
- A test inquiry before launch is often the simplest way to catch broken routing while there is still time to fix it.

Set ownership and service levels

- A source launch should include first-response expectations, owner assignment, backup coverage, no-response cadence, and escalation criteria.
- If a new source creates volume but no ownership rule, it can make the queue look busier while producing slower patient follow-up.

Measure quality by movement

- [] Source quality should be reviewed through response rate, prescreen completion, records readiness, scheduling movement, screen-failure patterns, close reasons, and stale risk.
- [] Raw volume is useful, but it does not tell the team whether a source is creating reviewable candidates or avoidable workload.

Define pause and shutdown criteria

- [] Before launch, agree on when a source should be paused, revised, or stopped. Examples include repeated wrong-study inquiries, low response after follow-up, poor records readiness, high duplicate rate, or misleading source expectations.
- [] That makes source management an operating discipline instead of a monthly debate about whether volume feels good or bad.

Educational resource only. This checklist does not replace protocol requirements, IRB-approved materials, sponsor instructions, investigator oversight, site SOPs, or authorized study-team decisions.