Is eCOA the Right Solution to Your Trial?

In recent years, Electronic Clinical Outcome Assessment (eCOA) has become an increasingly popular form of data collection for clinical trials. It works by electronically capturing patients' information through various technologies. The purpose of eCOA is to measure physical symptoms, mental conditions, quality of life questions and the effectiveness of treatments in different settings, situations, and individuals. Essentially, assisTek eCOA technologies are tools designed to understand a patient's condition and gather the important information needed to help find a cure to better their daily lives.

Is eCOA the best choice for your clinical trials? What are the benefits of doing clinical outcome assessments electronically? How exactly is an eCOA conducted? These questions will all be addressed in this article.

eCOA Clinical Trials: How Do They Work?

There are several different ways that eCOA clinical trials can be conducted. Data collection varies depending on a patient's condition and cognitive ability. There are 5 main ways that data can be collected through eCOA clinical trials.

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- **Patient-Reported Outcomes (PRO):** Patients report their own symptoms, usually through a questionnaire.
- **Observer Reported Outcome (ObsRO):** A friend, parent, partner, or adult child observes and reports their observations.
- **Clinical Reported Outcomes (ClinRO):** A healthcare professional observes and reports symptoms.
- **Performance Outcomes (PerfO):** A healthcare professional asks a patient to carry out tasks that can be observed that will give information about their condition.
- **Electronic Patient-Reported Outcome (ePRO):** Using electronic devices such as smartphones and tablets to report symptoms.

Why Use Electronic Clinical Outcome Assessment?

There are many benefits of using electronic clinical outcome assessment for clinical trials. Here are a few of the reasons to choose eCOAs:

- By using edit checks to minimize out-of-range or missing data, eCOAs can improve reliability. This is because data is collected at home, allowing healthcare professionals to remind patients to complete their assessments easily and effectively without asking them to make an appointment.

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- Electronic data collection simplifies the process of organizing data. eCOAs stamp data with the entry date and time, making the information easily accessible in case of an audit.
- eCOAs can save you money in the long run. While they may be more expensive initially, the reliability of this form of data collection saves you from the data clarification and query process that inevitably comes from using paper forms.
- eCOAs save you time by eliminating patients' need to travel to trial sites. Since they can do the assessment electronically from home, a healthcare professional can see the information immediately afterward. This also speeds up the process at the close of the trial as all information is ready to be submitted to the relevant approval parties and for submission to regulators much faster than inputting all paper source documents from the life of the trial.

eCOA Clinical Trial: Is eCOA Really More Reliable?

Modern technology has made gathering accurate, organized data easier than ever. It helps to eliminate human error and allows clinical trials to move forward without a hitch.

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Here are some reasons an eCOA clinical trial is the most reliable clinical assessment form:

No More Inconsistencies

eCOAs use branching sequences that keep patients on task. Unlike in-person paper assessments, eCOAs don't allow you to skip questions or enter conflicting information. This allows forms to be filled out more consistently and sensibly.

No More Transcription Errors

Human beings aren't perfect. Sometimes we make mistakes, even when it's our job to be precise. Electronic Clinical Outcome Assessments automate the process of transcribing data. This ensures that all data is entered without any hiccups.

Regulatory Standards Are Met

Much of the risk is taken out of clinical trials when eCOA is used. eCOA has met global regulatory standards and is considered Attributable, Legible, Contemporaneous, Original, and Accurate (ALCOA).

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Do you want to learn more about eCOA? Are you looking for an eSource Company that can take you through the process and give you helpful resources? AssisTek is ready to serve! For more than 25 years, we have been assisting clients with all different experience levels to implement eCOAs.

If you're ready to make the switch to electronic management, click here and we will send you a FREE download of our whitepaper, "The Beginner's Guide to eCOA in Clinical Research."

Interested in speaking with us directly? Contact us at the email below today!

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