

# Cancer Research Data Commons (CRDC): Data Submission FAQs

If you have questions not covered in the FAQs below, please contact the NCI CRDC Helpdesk by email at [ncicrdc@mail.nih.gov](mailto:ncicrdc@mail.nih.gov).

## **General CRDC Submission Questions**

### **1. What is the CRDC?**

The NCI Cancer Research Data Commons (CRDC) is a cloud-based data science infrastructure that provides secure access to a large, comprehensive, and expanding collection of cancer research data. Users can explore and use analytical and visualization tools for data analysis in the cloud. CRDC enables the cancer research community to share diverse data types, provide secure access to data, facilitate the generation of innovative tools, and adhere to FAIR principles of data stewardship: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR).

### **2. How do I submit data to the CRDC?**

The CRDC is made up of several [Data Commons](#) that share research data, including genomic, proteomic, imaging, epidemiology, and clinical and translational studies data, as well as canine biomedical data for comparative research.

The process for submitting data to the CRDC includes two stages that are completed through the [CRDC Submission Portal](#).

1. Complete the Submission Request form and receive approval from the CRDC Submission Request Committee. [Full instructions to complete the Submission Request form are available here](#).
2. Initiate and complete the Data Submission. [Full instructions to complete the Data Submission form are available here](#).

## **Submission Request Process**

### **1. Can I choose which CRDC Data Commons will share my data?**

The CRDC Submission Review Committee (SRC) evaluates Submission Requests and upon approval, decides which CRDC Data Commons will share the submitted data.

**2. Who is on the CRDC Submission Review Committee?**

The Submission Review Committee (SRC) consists of representatives from each of the CRDC Data Commons. It serves as the review body and final decision-maker on whether to accept or reject data submission requests to the CRDC.

**3. How long does a submission request review take?**

Submission Requests will be reviewed and a decision reached in 4-6 weeks. It is the responsibility of the submitter to ensure that the submission request form is completed in full and the fields include meaningful information for the SRC to evaluate. If there is a need for clarification, or if the SRC has additional questions, the CRDC Helpdesk will contact the submitter.

**4. What are the evaluation criteria for study acceptance to CRDC?**

The Submission Review Committee will assess the study's fit for the CRDC. Additional criteria include:

1. Is the study NCI or NIH-funded?
2. Are the data collected and ready to be submitted?
3. If the data are controlled access, are the data registered in dbGaP?
4. Are the data from human, canine, mouse, zebrafish studies, or other?

**5. Will my study data automatically be rejected if the study is not NCI or NIH-funded?**

Study data that are not NCI or NIH-funded will be forwarded to the NCI Office of Data Sharing (ODS), which will provide further direction to the investigator. These studies will go through a separate review process and an appropriate committee will determine whether the data may be shared through any of the NIH repositories.

Additional information regarding the sharing of non-NCI or non-NIH funded studies can be found [here](#).

**6. Will my study data automatically be rejected if the study and data collection are not complete?**

If the study data have not yet been collected in full, the Submission Request will not be eligible for review by the Submission Review Committee. Investigators are encouraged to complete the Submission Request form when the study data collection is complete and data are ready to be submitted.

**7. If my study includes controlled access data, how do I register in dbGaP?**

If your study includes controlled access data and it is not yet registered in dbGaP, please delay submitting a submission request form until you have registered your study in dbGaP. Instructions for registering your study in dbGaP can be found here: [How to Register and Submit a Study in dbGaP | Data Sharing \(nih.gov\)](#)

**8. Will my study data automatically be rejected if they are not from a species such as human, canine, mouse, or zebrafish?**

Study data that are from a species other than human, canine, mouse, or zebrafish will not automatically be rejected. The Submission Review Committee will review the relevant alternative species and will determine if the data are a fit for the CRDC.

**9. Will my study data automatically be rejected if they are not included in any peer-reviewed publications?**

The Submission Review Committee considers study data regardless of inclusion in peer-reviewed publications. If your data are included in a peer-reviewed publication or a manuscript that is under review, please include relevant details, as this will help the Submission Review Committee better understand your study and dataset.

**10. Will my study data be accepted if I indicated CRDC in my Data Management and Sharing Plan?**

Even if you indicated CRDC as the target repository in your Data Management and Sharing Plan, this does not guarantee that CRDC will automatically accept your study data. All investigators will need to complete the Submission Request form and receive approval from the Submission Review Committee prior to submitting their data to CRDC.

## **Data Submission Process**

**1. How long will it take to submit data?**

Researchers are advised to allow sufficient time for the full process to be sure they comply with the data sharing timelines specified by the NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy. Submission timelines largely depend on the submitter uploading and validating the data and metadata files specific to their study on the CRDC Submission Portal. Once completed, the CRDC will be responsible for making those files available on the agreed-upon data commons portal(s).

**2. What requirements will I need to be compliant with during data submission?**

The CRDC Submission Portal provides resources for users looking to align their data with CRDC standards before starting the submission process. Users may access the [Model Navigator through the portal](#), and learn about the types of data that are accepted and the type of metadata required. Users can also download the data dictionary and sample metadata templates to guide their submission process.

In addition, a comprehensive list of CRDC standard CDEs can be found at [caDSR](#). Click the “CRDC Standard Data Elements” link in the Links to Favorites section or download them from the getCRDCList endpoint of the [caDSR API](#).

## **CRDC Data Submission Costs**

### **1. Are there any costs involved in submitting data to CRDC?**

There are no costs for submitting data to the CRDC. That said, there may be costs for study collection, certain data preparation, and formatting needed to make the data accessible. As highlighted in the NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy, investigators may request funds toward data management and sharing in the budget and budget justification sections of their applications.

Additional information on allowable Data Management and Sharing costs can be found at the following links: ([NOT-OD-21-013: Final NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing](#), [NOT-OD-21-015: Supplemental Information to the NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing: Allowable Costs for Data Management and Sharing](#))

### **2. Are there any data storage costs within the CRDC?**

There are no costs for data storage in the CRDC.