

Cancer Research Data Commons (CRDC): Data Submission FAQs

If you have questions not covered in the FAQs below, please contact the [NCI CRDC Helpdesk](#).

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. It consists 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. Users can explore datasets through the Data Commons or use any of the (hundreds) of publicly available analytical tools from the [NCI Cloud Resources](#) for data analysis in the cloud.

2. How do I submit data to the CRDC?

The process for submitting data to the CRDC includes two stages that are completed through the [CRDC Submission Portal](#). Step-by-step instructions are available to guide submitters:

1. Complete the **Submission Request** form to share details about the data you intend to submit and receive approval from the CRDC Submission Review Committee. [Full instructions are available to complete the Submission Request form.](#)
2. After receiving approval, initiate and complete the **Data Submission**. [Full instructions are available to complete the Data Submission form.](#)

3. Can I list CRDC in my Data Management and Sharing Plan (DMSP)?

We encourage researchers to consider CRDC as part of their Data Management and Sharing Plan. Please note, listing CRDC as the target repository does not guarantee that CRDC will automatically accept your study data. When data collection is complete and data are ready to be submitted to CRDC, 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.

4. Do I need to complete a Submission Request to include CRDC in my Data Management and Sharing Plan?

No, you do not need to complete a Submission Request form prior to filling out the Data Management and Sharing Plan.

The Submission Request form should be completed when you have collected all expected data for your NCI-funded or NIH-funded study.

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 makes a decision about which CRDC Data Commons will share the submitted data. This information will be communicated to the submitter along with the final decision on whether their data will be accepted and shared through the CRDC.

2. What is 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 study data proposed through Submission Requests to the CRDC, as well as determine which Data Commons will share the submitted data.

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 Help Desk](#) will contact the submitter.

4. What are the requirements for sharing data through the CRDC?

Prior to filling out the Submission Request form, investigators should ensure that their study or program meets the following requirements:

1. Studies are NCI-funded or NIH-funded.
2. Study data collection is complete and data are ready to be submitted.
3. The study has been registered in [dbGaP](#), if it contains controlled access data.
4. The data are from human, canine, mouse, zebrafish studies, or other species.

5. What if my study is not funded by the NCI or NIH?

The CRDC only accepts studies that are NCI- or NIH-funded. If your study is not funded by the NCI or NIH, please reach out to the [Office of Data Sharing](#) for further guidance.

6. What if my study data collection is not complete when I fill in the Submission Request?

If the study data have not yet been fully collected, the Submission Request will not be eligible for review by the Submission Review Committee. Investigators should fill out the Submission Request form when the study data collection is complete and they are ready to submit the data.

7. What if my study includes controlled access data, how do I register the study in dbGaP?

If your study includes controlled access data, the study should be registered in dbGaP prior to completing the Submission Request form. Instructions for registering your study in dbGaP can be found on the dbGap website: [How to Register and Submit a Study in dbGaP | Data Sharing \(nih.gov\)](#).

8. What if my study includes data from species other than human, canine, mouse, or zebrafish?

The CRDC Submission Review Committee will review the proposed study data presented through the Submission Request and determine if the data meet the goals of the CRDC.

Data Submission Process

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

Submission timelines largely depend on the submitter uploading and validating the data and metadata files specific to their study through the CRDC Submission Portal. Once completed, the CRDC will be responsible for making those files available on the agreed-upon Data Commons portal(s). 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.

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

The CRDC Submission Portal provides resources for users to align their data with CRDC standards before starting the data submission process. Users can access the [Model Navigator through the portal](#), and learn about the types of data that are accepted and the types 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 found under 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 data collection, 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.