

Web-based reporting

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The CPSP is seeking a viable solution for electronic relay of data and information resources among participants, staff and investigators. This process reflects the program's desire to administer the CPSP responsibly. The objectives for implementing such a system are to enable faster communications; facilitate reporting by providing immediate access to study case definitions and protocols; and reduce materials, postage costs and production times. The system must maintain or improve response rates and enable rapid-response data capture, especially in face of an emerging health concern.

To better understand the need for an electronic reporting system, the CPSP used a variety of research tools, including a mailed survey to participants, indepth interviews and focus groups.

The overall survey response rate was 31% (756 respondents). Responses were received from most provinces and territories. More than two-thirds of participants indicated a willingness to report online, 13% were undecided and would require further information, and 15% preferred status quo. For this last category, a parallel hard-copy system will remain in place.

Of the respondents who were unsure about online reporting, issues such as aptitude and access to technology, additional e-mail burden, and the tendency to miss e-mails, were among the top reasons that explained the hesitancy to adopt such a system.

Suggestions for successful implementation included a simple, quick and reliable system with minimal or no log-in requirements, e-mail reminders to report with links to Web forms, and the highest levels of security.

Participants were also asked about the use of CPSP resources on-line, specifically ADR Tips of the Month, quarterly updates, educational resources and study protocols. Even if some participants were willing to report on-line, they indicated a preference for continuing to receive hard copy resources.

The program is currently in consultation with potential suppliers and will provide feedback on the progress of implementing an electronic system. Participants will be contacted regularly to ensure a user-friendly system. Future steps will include investigating the option of completing detailed questionnaires on-line and possibly enhanced features such as real-time statistics.

The CPSP would like to thank all the participants and investigators who generously gave their time to provide input and suggestions for implementing Webbased reporting.

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