PURPOSE
Ancillary projects and data sharing projects are a high priority of NRG Oncology. These studies can provide useful hypothesis-generating information of potential value to the Group and to Society. NRG members, as well as qualified non-members, are encouraged to apply for the opportunities to collaborate with NRG Oncology on scientifically exciting ideas. The Ancillary Projects Committee will facilitate this application and review process, and the general principles of this process are detailed below.

NRG ONCOLOGY ANCILLARY PROJECTS POLICY
1. NRG Oncology is a National Cancer Institute (NCI) funded entity and follows NCI policies and guidelines applicable to sharing data from NCI supported studies. In addition to these guidelines, NRG Oncology has additional policies – detailed below – that govern requests for data and data analyses that are not pre-specified in an NRG protocol document. These analyses are referred to by NRG as ‘ancillary analysis projects’.

2. Ancillary analysis projects generally do not begin until the primary endpoint of the relevant study(ies) has been reported and published. There are occasional exceptions, for example studies in which the primary endpoint may take many years to mature (e.g. early stage prostate, breast CA trials). These exceptional requests usually require NRG Oncology Data Monitoring Committee and NCI approval. In most cases, requests for analyses prior to the primary endpoint reporting will be administratively rejected by the Committee and applicants will be asked to re-apply in the future.

3. Ancillary analysis requests refer to the use of data elements that have already been collected. Requests for new/additional data not currently in the NRG Oncology database will, in general, be declined.

4. Ancillary analysis requests will be submitted to the Committee using the Data Request Application Form available from the NRG Oncology website. They will undergo an initial review by the Committee and relevant statistician(s). It is not unusual for multiple applicants to submit very similar, or even duplicative, applications for ancillary analyses. The Committee will adjudicate these situations and will create a publicly available database of approved NRG Oncology ancillary analysis projects.

5. If the ancillary project is found to be potentially feasible and not duplicative of a current project, it will undergo formal peer review. The Committee will then evaluate the peer review assessment and provide the investigator(s) with a final decision regarding acceptance and level of prioritization.

6. The work involved in an approved ancillary analysis request is considerable, and is not funded under the NRG Oncology grant with NCI. It is expected that investigators requesting an ancillary analysis will provide a source of funding and/or resources upon acceptance of their proposal. The exact amount depends on many factors, including the complexity of the project, and time and effort required for data set assembly and/or analyses. The Committee will work closely with Group Chairs, Statisticians and Administrators to determine a fair and equitable budget for each specific project that is submitted, and will provide this budget to the investigator(s) for review and acceptance prior to initiation of an analysis.

7. Please see the NRG Oncology website and Data Sharing Policy for further information regarding the sharing of data from NCI funded trials conducted by NRG Oncology for an investigator’s independent use.