



NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE  
Office of Cancer Centers

March 4, 2020

Dear Center Directors and Associate Directors of Administration:

Centers are expected to lead, and/or participate in, NCI's National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) trials, including studies of cancers that are rare or involve narrower molecular subtypes. **These include those diseases of uncommon clinical presentations (e.g., uncommon clinical subsets of more common cancers).** It is not expected that any single Center will be able to meet minimum annual accrual requirements for these types of cancers. Additionally, accrual of patients to these trials often takes a longer period of time. For these reasons, these trials need many centers involved and a longer accrual period to have the greatest potential to meet their accrual targets.

While Centers, through their Protocol Review and Monitoring System (PRMS), have the authority to close trials for poor accrual, exceptions should be made for trials involving rare cancers, cancers of narrower molecular subtypes, and cancers with uncommon clinical presentations. The CCSG includes explicit language stating that the PRMS should provide accrual exceptions for these types of trials. If your Center does not already have such exceptions in your PRMS processes, we encourage you to include them.

Please ensure that this information is shared with your center's PRMS leadership. Beginning with the next round of reviewer orientations, I will emphasize this to the reviewers. Thank you for your continued support of these important national efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry Ciolino".

Henry Ciolino, PhD  
Director  
Office of Cancer Centers  
Office of the Director  
National Cancer Institute