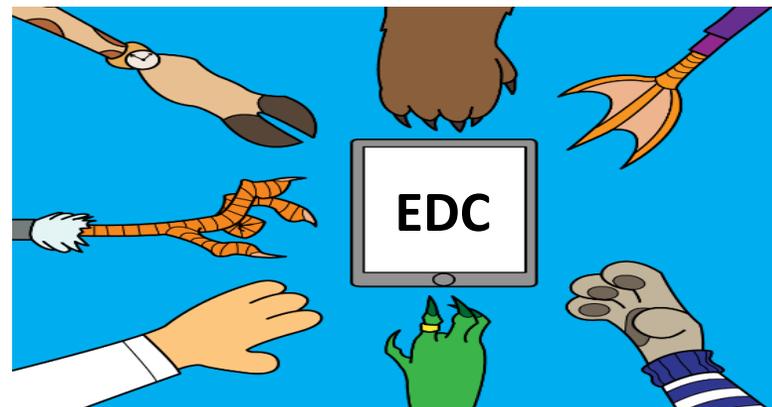


# KEY CONSIDERATIONS AND CHALLENGES OF EDC IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND STATISTICS OF CLINICAL TRIALS

Liora Bosch

Biostatistician and EDC expert,  
Omrix Biopharmaceuticals, Johnson & Johnson



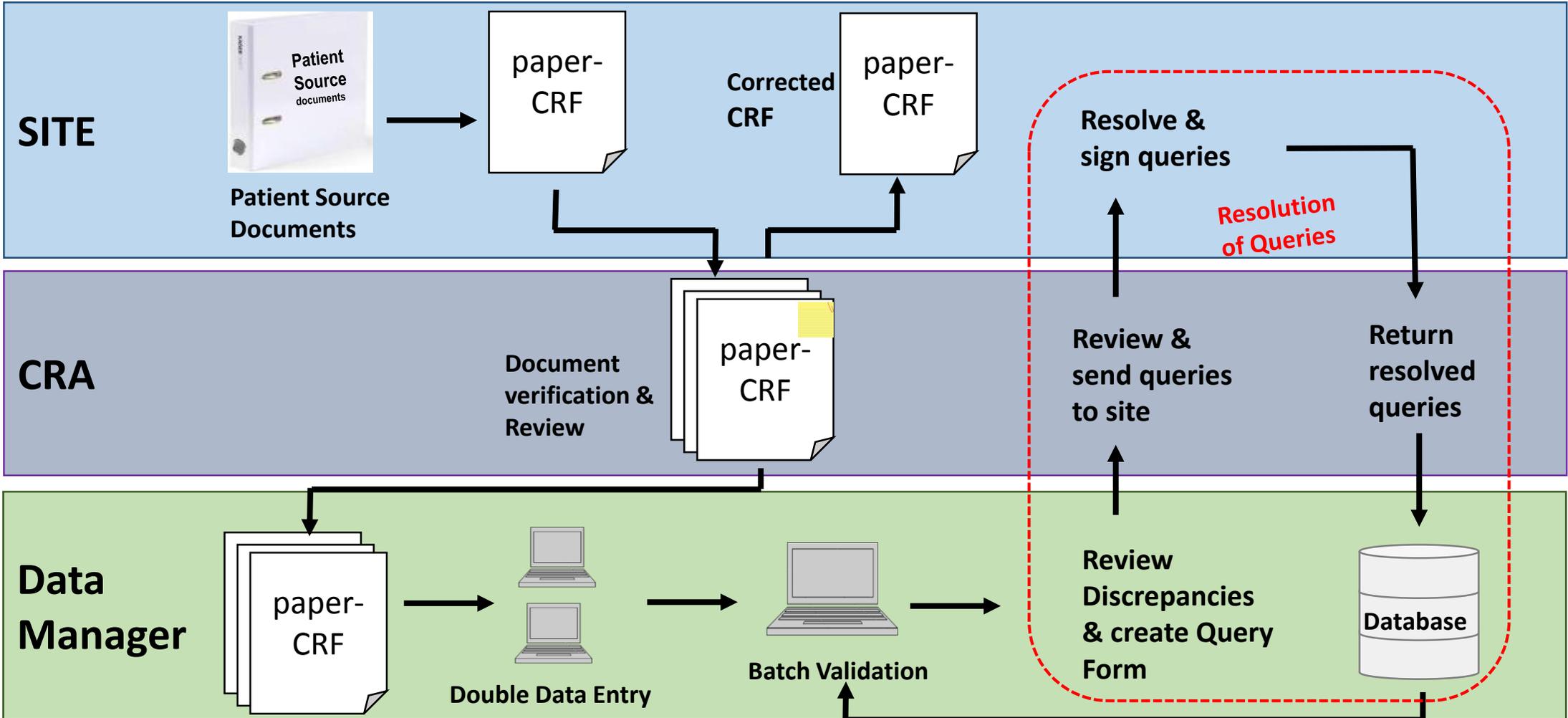
## A Brief Survey:

Which of the following describes your organization's Data Management?

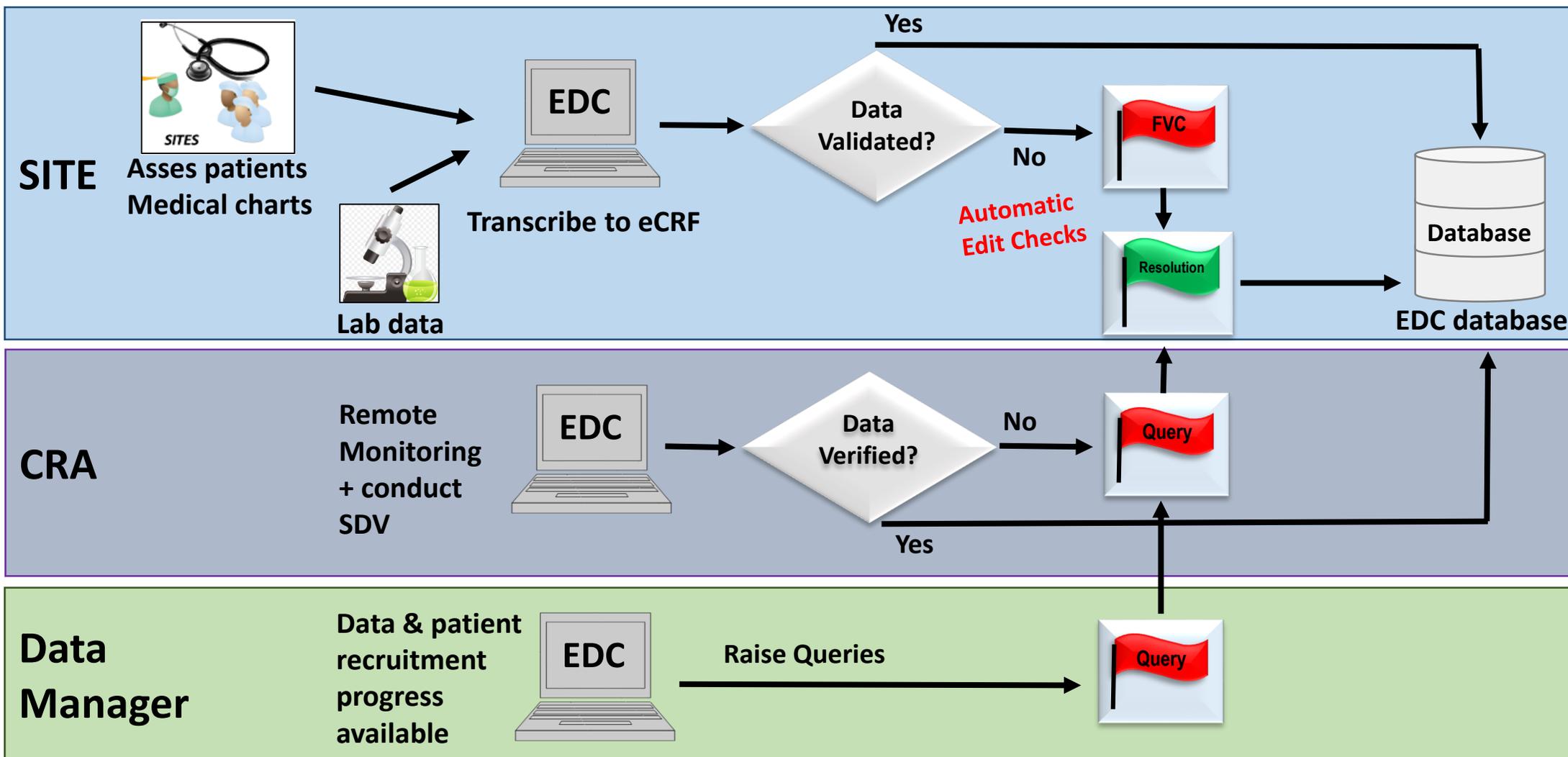
- Full **EDC** system
- **Hybrid** combination of **paper-CRF** and **EDC**
- **Paper-CRF**



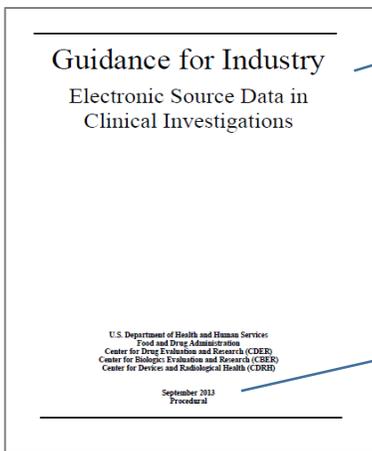
# Data collection using paper-CRF



# Data collection using eCRF



# FDA 2013: Promoting eSource



## Guidance for Industry Electronic Source Data in Clinical Investigations

September 2013

### Why eSource?

- “...**promotes** capturing source data in electronic form...”
- [assists] “in **ensuring** the **reliability, quality, integrity,** and **traceability** of electronic source data.”

FDA U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Protecting and Promoting Public Health www.fda.gov

## Final Guidance on Electronic Source Data in Clinical Investigations

### **Promoting eSource Data Capture**

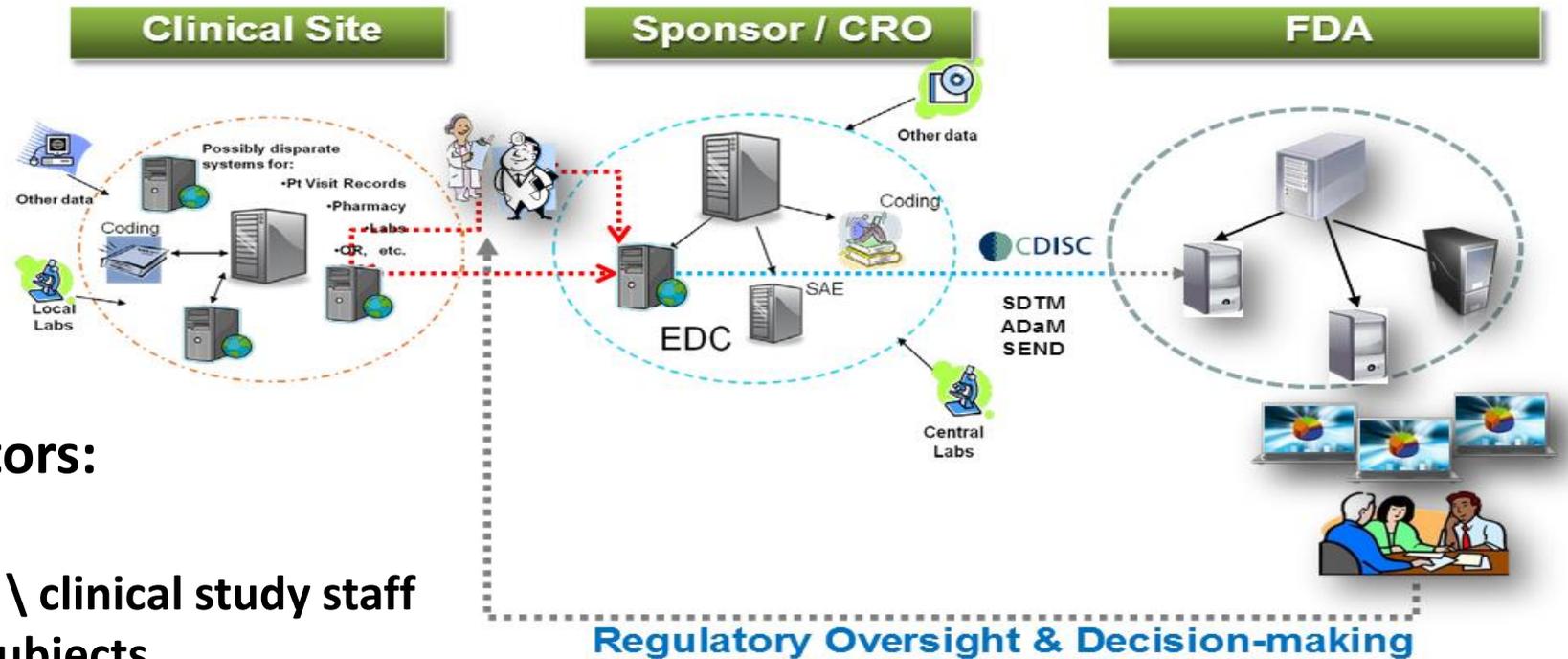
CDER  
Leonard Sacks, Office of Medical Policy  
Ron Fitzmartin, Office of Strategic Programs  
Jonathan Helfgott, Office of Compliance  
Sean Kassim, Office of Compliance

CBER  
Bhanu Kannan, Bio-monitoring Branch

CDRH  
Irfan Khan, Office of Compliance, CDRH

FDA Webinar  
29 January 2014

# Data initially recorded in electronic format – no intermediary

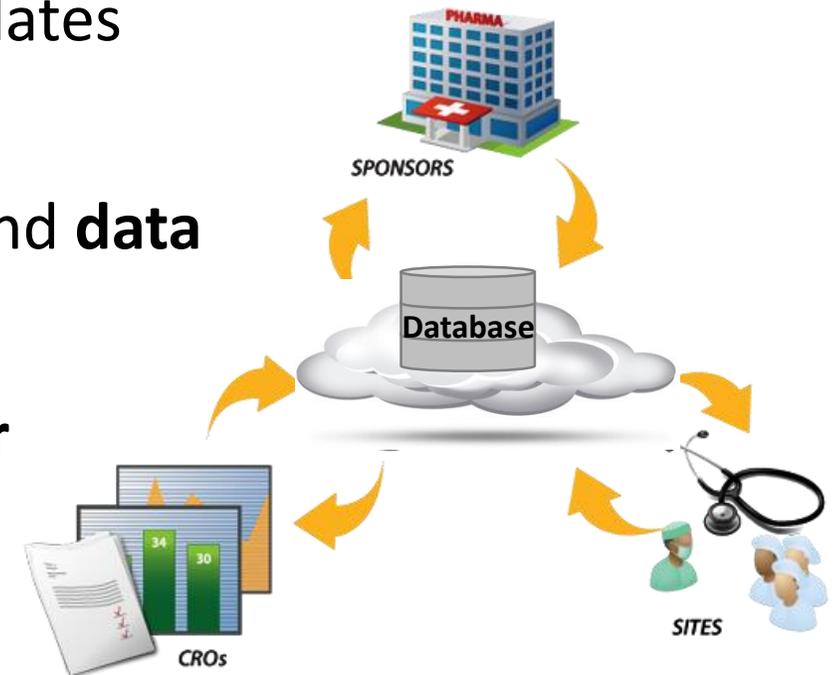


## eSource data originators:

- Clinical investigator(s) \ clinical study staff
- Clinical investigation subjects
- Consulting services (e.g., a radiologist reporting on a CT scan)
- Medical devices
- Electronic health records (EHRs)
- Automated laboratory reporting systems

# Benefits of EDC deployment

- **REAL TIME Automatic Edit Checks**
- **Worldwide Connectivity** - Real Time Data Accumulation
- **REAL TIME Recruitment progress and status updates** automatically on **EDC dashboard**
- Ability to control both **hierarchical data access** and **data transparency**
- **Higher data quality – increased statistical power**
- **Mid-term reports** easily accomplished



# EDC Applications Dashboards

**Manage Studies** Copy, Export, Print Support

Copy CSV Print Search:

| Study                          | Sites | Subjects |          |        |          | Visit Forms |                  |          | Queries |      |           | Adverse Events |     |         |            |
|--------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|--------|----------|-------------|------------------|----------|---------|------|-----------|----------------|-----|---------|------------|
|                                |       | All      | Enrolled | Signed | Unsigned | All         | Partial Complete | Complete | All     | Open | Responded | Closed         | All | Serious | Unassessed |
| <a href="#">5.0 Test Study</a> | 2     | 62       | 62       | 1      | 61       | 144         | 54               | 90       | 64      | 51   | 8         | 5              | 35  | 0       | 33         |
| <a href="#">C1QASS5-01</a>     | 3     | 37       | 37       | 1      | 36       | 138         | 47               | 91       | 21      | 16   | 0         | 5              | 24  | 6       | 21         |
| <a href="#">C1QASS5-02</a>     | 3     | 4        | 4        | 0      | 4        |             |                  |          |         |      |           |                |     |         |            |
| <a href="#">QA Baseline</a>    | 2     | 142      | 93       | 13     | 129      |             |                  |          |         |      |           |                |     |         |            |

Showing 1 to 4 of 4 entries

Home | Subject Matrix | Add Subject | Notes & Discrepancies | Tasks | Report Issue | Support |

**Subject Matrix for** Clickable Links

15 Show More Select An Event Add New Subject

| Study Subject ID | Screening 1 | Screening 2 | Baseline | 1 Week | 2 Week | 3 Week | 4 Week | 6 Week / Early Termination | 8 Week | Verification Form | Termin |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| UC-01            | ✓           | ✓           | ✓        | ✓      | ✓      | 📄      | ✓      | ✓                          | ✓      | ✓                 | ✓      |
| UC-02            | ✓           | ✓           | ✓        | ✓      | 📄      | 📄      | 📄      | 📄                          | 📄      | ✓                 | ✓      |
| UC-03            | ✓           | 📄           | 📄        | 📄      | 📄      | 📄      | 📄      | 📄                          | 📄      | 📄                 | 📄      |

Results 1 - 3 of 3.

**Sortable Headers** **Search** **Copy, Export, Print** **Clickable Links** **Study Subject ID** **Search** **Sortable Headers** **Patient recruitment progress**

# REAL TIME Edit Checks

- **Predefined** in the EDC system, **usually by the data manager.**
- **Prevent** the end-user from entering **mistaken invalidated data.**
- **Simplify monitoring** activities

| Edit Check type      | Example  |
|----------------------|--|
| Patient Eligibility  | If any <b>Exclusion Criteria</b> are <b>yes</b> , then error message that <b>Subject should not participate.</b> |
| Comment availability | If a body system is selected as <b>Abnormal</b> , a <b>reason must be provided.</b>                              |
| Chronologic dating   | <b>End date is not before Start Date</b>   |
| Range checks         | <b>Age is between 18 and 85</b>  |

# Example for a Failed Validation Check (1):

Subtitle: **INCLUSION CRITERIA**

Instructions: **If any criterion is marked "NO", patient is ineligible for study enrollment**

Page:

|    |  |     |  |
|----|--|-----|--|
| 1  | Outpatients  | YES |  |
| 2  | 22-68 years of age.  | YES |  |
| 3  | Diagnosed as suffering from an episode of bipolar depression (BP1 or BP2) according to DSM IV, with the additional requirement of duration for the current episode $\geq$ 4 weeks and CGI $\geq$ 4.  | YES |  |
| 4  | Rating on HDRS (21 items) $\geq$ 20 and item 1 $\geq$ 2 at the screening visit.  | YES |  |
| 5  | Negative answers on safety screening questionnaire for trans cranial magnetic stimulation (TASS).  | YES |  |
| 6  | Taking mood stabilizing medication (e.g., Lithium, Lamictal, Tegretol, Topamax, etc.) at a therapeutic dose or atypical antipsychotic medication which was prescribed as mood stabilizers by their treating physician, except for Leponex (Clozapine). | YES |  |
| 7  | According to the treating physician the patient is compliant with taking the mood-stabilizing medication.  | YES |  |
| 8  | If currently taking antidepressant pharmacotherapy, must be clinically appropriate to discontinue treatment with those agents.   | NO  |  |
| 9  | Able to tolerate psychotropic medication washout and no new psychotropics during the H-coil deep brain rTMS, other than benzodiazepines at an equivalent dose of up to 3 mg Lorazepam every day and mood stabilizing medications.                      | YES |  |
| 10 | Able to adhere to the treatment schedule.  | YES |  |
| 11 | Capable and willing to provide written informed consent.   | YES |  |

Return to top

**[If any criterion is marked "NO", patient is ineligible for study enrollment. Please verify your answer, if this comment remains applicable add a discrepancy note vis the flag icon.]**

INCLUSI...(0/11) EXCLUSI...(0/26) ELIGIBI...(0/4) -- Select to Jump --

Title: FIRST SCREENING VISIT - PATIENT ELIGIBILITY

Subtitle: **INCLUSION CRITERIA**

Instructions: **If any criterion is marked "NO", patient is ineligible for study enrollment**

Page:

|   |  |      |  |
|---|--|------|--|
| 1 | Outpatients  | YES  |  |
| 2 | 22-68 years of age.  | YES  |  |
| 3 | Diagnosed as suffering from an episode of bipolar depression (BP1 or BP2) according to DSM IV, with the additional requirement of duration for the current episode $\geq$ 4 weeks and CGI $\geq$ 4.  | YES  |  |
| 4 | Rating on HDRS (21 items) $\geq$ 20 and item 1 $\geq$ 2 at the screening visit.  | YES  |  |
| 5 | Negative answers on safety screening questionnaire for trans cranial magnetic stimulation (TASS).  | YES  |  |
| 6 | Taking mood stabilizing medication (e.g., Lithium, Lamictal, Tegretol, Topamax, etc.) at a therapeutic dose or atypical antipsychotic medication which was prescribed as mood stabilizers by their treating physician, except for Leponex (Clozapine). | YES  |  |
| 7 | According to the treating physician the patient is compliant with taking the mood-stabilizing medication.  | YES  |  |
| 8 | If currently taking antidepressant pharmacotherapy, must be clinically appropriate to discontinue treatment with those agents.   | ! NO |  |

Mistake during data entry

Data is submitted after correction.

# Example for a Failed Validation Check (2):

- [Make sure you convert the Temperature from F to C! If the temperature was entered in Celsius and is still out of range: 35.5-41 C, please add a discrepancy note via the flag icon.]**

System Alert!

VS\_BMSE...(0/19) -- Select to Jump --

Title: BL  
Subtitle:

**BASELINE VISIT**

Page:  Mark CRF Complete

DATE OF VISIT: 05-Dec-2011 \* (DD-MMM-YYYY)

**VITAL SIGNS**

Pulse Rate: 80 (/min) Temperature: **!** 98.4 (°C)

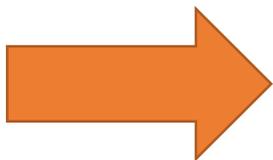
Pulse was not obtained  Temp was not obtained

Temperature entered in F instead of °C.

Data is submitted after correction.

# Data Element Identifiers (DEIs) enable Audit Trail

- The eCRF should include the capability to record **Audit Trail**:
  - **Who entered / transmitted** and **When?**
  - **What changes were made? When? Why?**
- DEIs should be attached to each data element:
  - Originators of the data element
  - Date and time of data entry into the eCRF
  - Subjects to which the data element belongs



- Allowing sponsors, FDA, and other authorized parties to **examine** the audit trail of the eCRF data.
- Allowing **FDA** to reconstruct and evaluate the **clinical investigation**.

# Possible EDC implementation obstacles

- High upfront cost
- Inability to work offline
- Need to invest in technical knowledge
- Resistance to change
- Restrictive Data Entry
- Loss of flexibility

Pros or Cons?

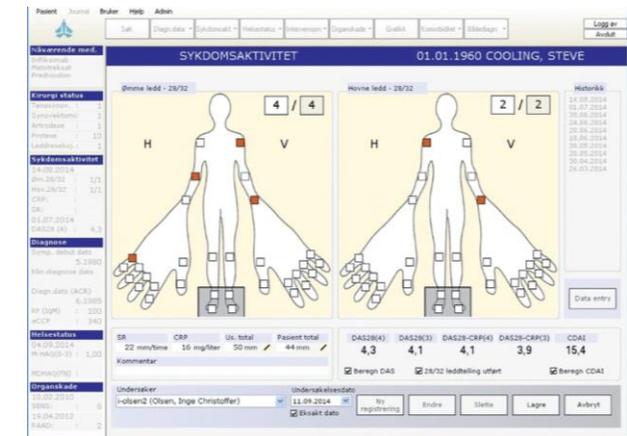


Let's have a closer look



# NOR-DMARD Case Study (1): Transition from paper-CRF to EDC system

- **2000** -> the **NOR**wegian **Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs (NOR-DMARD) registry started recording disease activity, quality of life measures and adverse events during DMARD treatment** in 5 different rheumatology departments.
- **2011** -> **new protocol** with focus on **biologic DMARD** treatment
- In addition **Electronic Health Record system** was implemented to enhances disease monitoring, e.g. providing a graphic and numeric display of data.



## EHR system limitations:

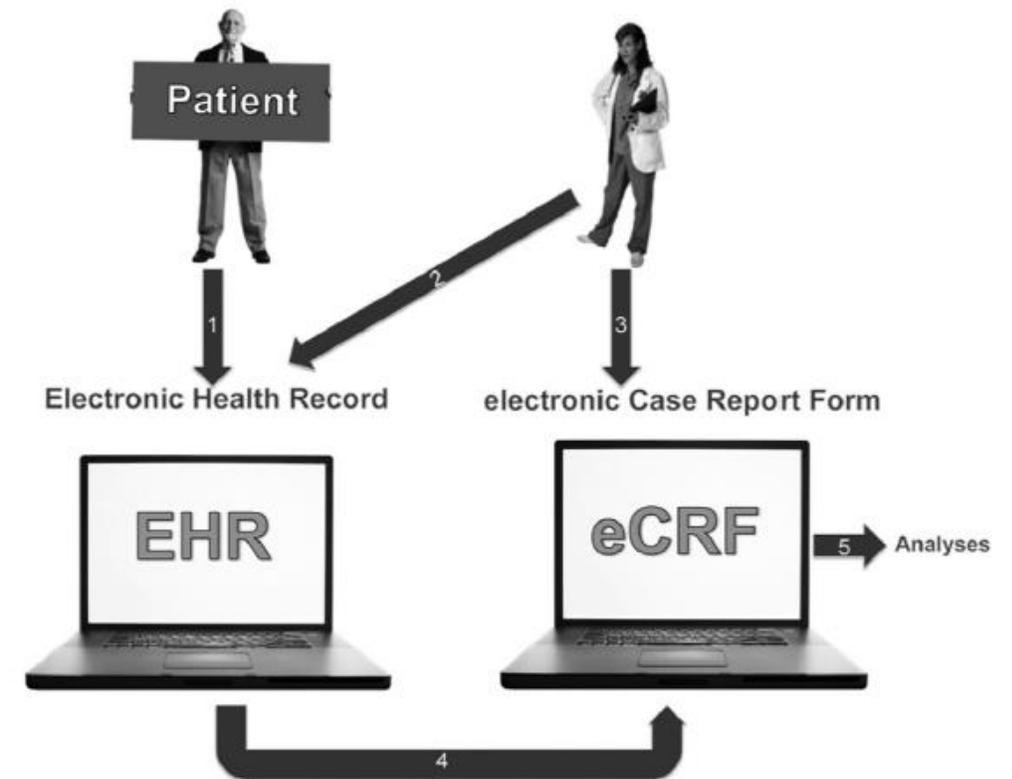
1. The study tool was quite **rigid** and **limited to pre-specified modules**;
2. **Adverse Events** and other protocol-specific information **couldn't be adequately captured**;
3. **No Audit Trail** or **query handling**;
4. The **data were stored locally** without a central database.

**→ EDC system was added**

# NOR-DMARD Case Study (2): Transition from paper-CRF to EDC system

## Data flow in the NOR-DMARD registry:

1. The **Patient records** his patient registered outcomes (**PROs**) into the **EHR system**;
2. The **treating nurse/physician** also records **clinical information** into the **EHR system**;
3. **Adverse Events** are registered directly to the **EDC system**.
4. The **EDC system** generates a unique patient number, which is then **registered in the EHR**. Enabling transfer from one system to the other.
5. **Data** in the eCRF is **available for analyses at any time**.



# NOR-DMARD Case Study (3): Transition from paper-CRF to EDC system

Previous paper-CRF vs. current EDC system **costs comparison:**

|                  | paper-CRF            |
|------------------|----------------------|
| <b>CRO Costs</b> | 14 EUR per visit\CRF |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>~88,000 EUR</b>   |



|  | EDC                |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>Initial set-up costs (+ licensing fees)</b> | 18,000 EUR         |
| <b>Yearly licensing fees</b>                   | 1,800 EUR          |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>24,000 EUR*</b> |

\*Exclude the costs of the EHR system and some internal data management costs.

This illustration is based on data from almost **6400 visits** in **3400 patients** included in the EDC system between May 2012 and August 2014.

# NOR-DMARD Case Study (4): Transition from paper-CRF to EDC system

## EDC Advantages:

- **Data feasibility,**
- **Lower cost,**
- **Data quality,** and
- Routine **data extraction within minutes**

## Problems and challenges:

- **Export/Import routine is complex and relies on SAS programming expertise: only one person** within the study management had the necessary knowledge to import from the EHR into the EDC system.
- The **export/import routine** is quite time consuming ~ **10 hours per transfer.**

# EDC available at the market

|                        | Commercial EDC  | Open-Source EDC   |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Developer:             | For-profit company or developer group   | A single or group of developers, often as a voluntary effort.   |
| Charges:               | User licenses with or without annual support contracts  | Free of charge<br>*requires personnel training  |
| Source Code:           | Not published   | Published online and can be <b>downloaded for free</b>  |
| Some examples include: | Oracle® Clinical (Oracle, USA)<br>Clinsys® (Jubilant Organosys, USA)<br>InForm™ (Phase forward, USA)<br>DATATRAK EDC (DATATRAK, USA)<br>Medidata Rave® (Medidata Solutions) | OpenClinica® (Akaza Research, USA)<br>DADOS P (Research group, Duke University, USA)<br>Redcap (Vanderbilt University, USA)<br>TrialDB (Yale University, USA) |



Source: "Electronic Data Capture for Registries and Clinical Trials in Orthopaedic Surgery" Open Source versus Commercial Systems

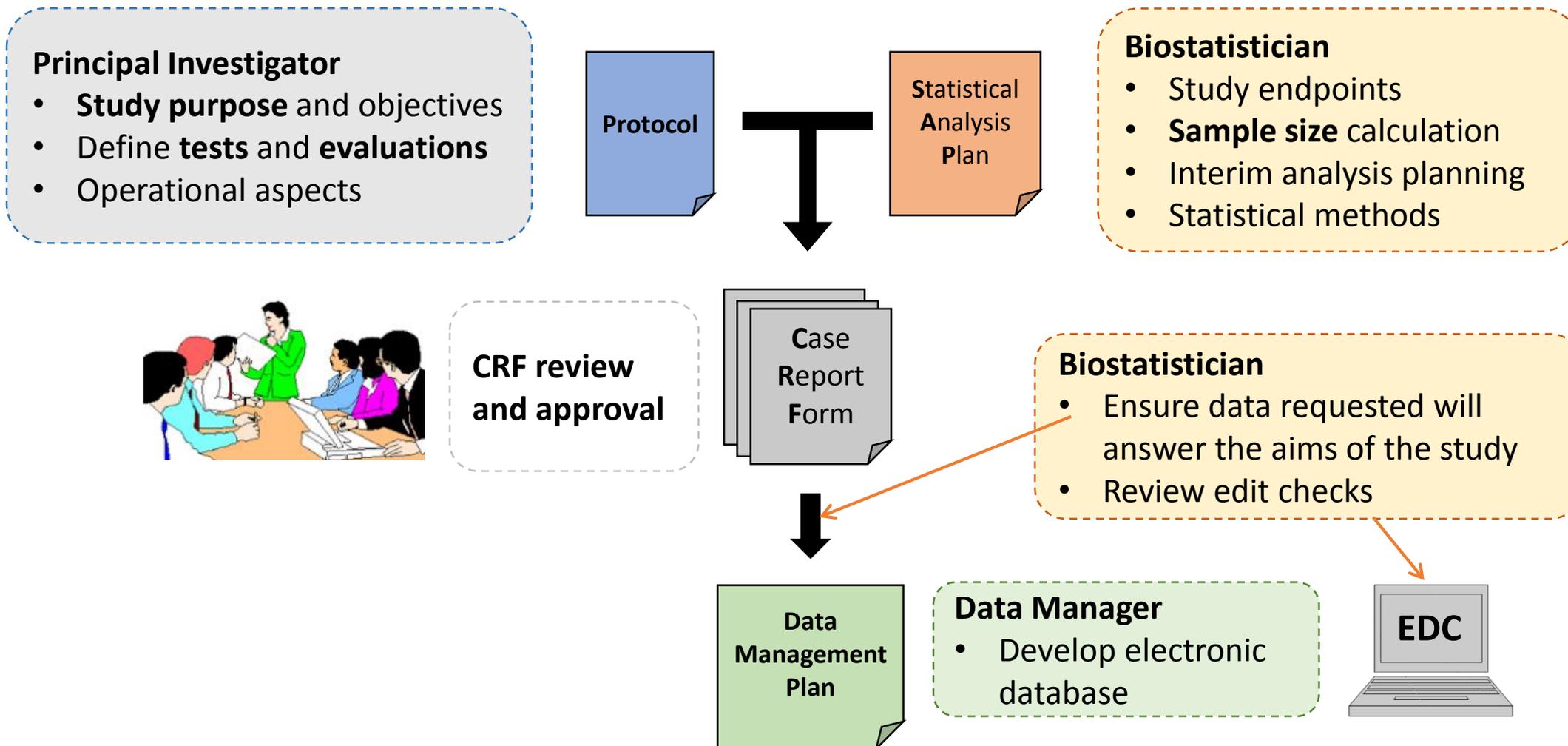
# Considerations when comparing systems available at the market

- Availability of relevant personnel to support the system?
- Multi -central / single site?
- Payment **per study** ? Or **monthly fee** to run all your studies?
- Payment **per system user?** **per site?**
- **Training** site personnel? **Support number?**

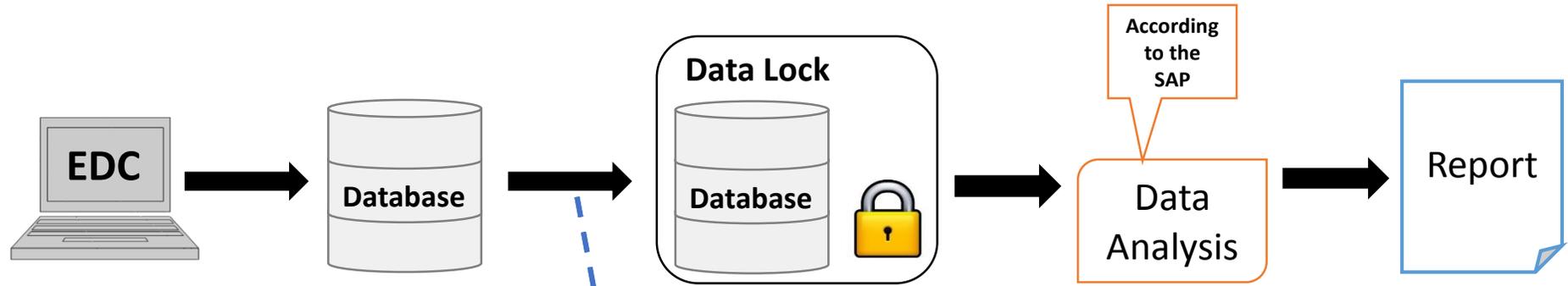
- There are no clear rules!



# Biostatistician involvement in EDC system design



# The clock is ticking -> Data analysis



**LPLV to DBL**  
finalize data entry,  
query resolutions  
and data cleansing.

Efficient database- less time  
to review /clean data

**A well-designed eCRF**, whose  
functionality has been matched to the  
needs of your particular protocol  
brings huge **benefits in data quality** ->  
**increases statistical power.**

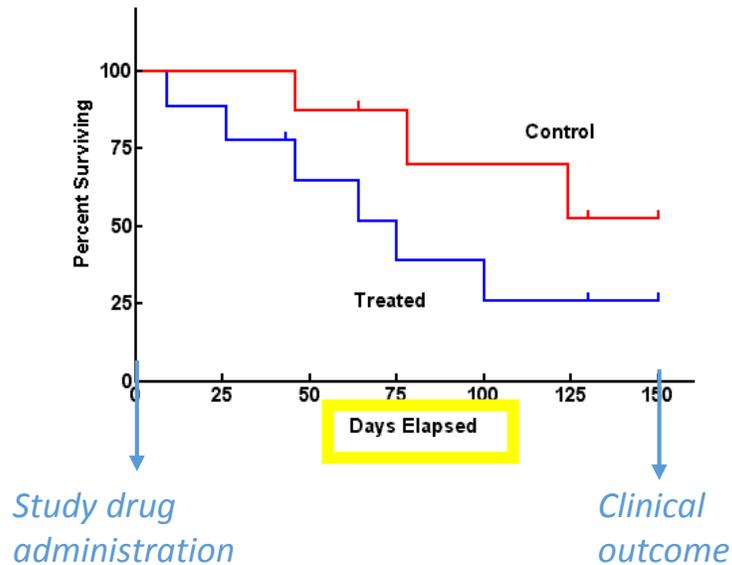
# When statisticians review CRFs, they can be useful with:

- Making sure that **only essential information** is collected
- **Consistent coding** of variables -to avoid data loss or late detection.
- **Identifying relevant data checks** - used to **find errors early** —in order to gain greater efficiencies
- **Risk based monitoring** - helping decide **which questionable data values are worth querying**

## Data error example:

# Missing times - the most common missing variables in CRFs

- **Survival analysis:** is an analysis of the expected duration of time from a certain event to the other.



### Expected survival Times

### Required units

Long-term survival times

Calendar dates

Shorter-term survival times

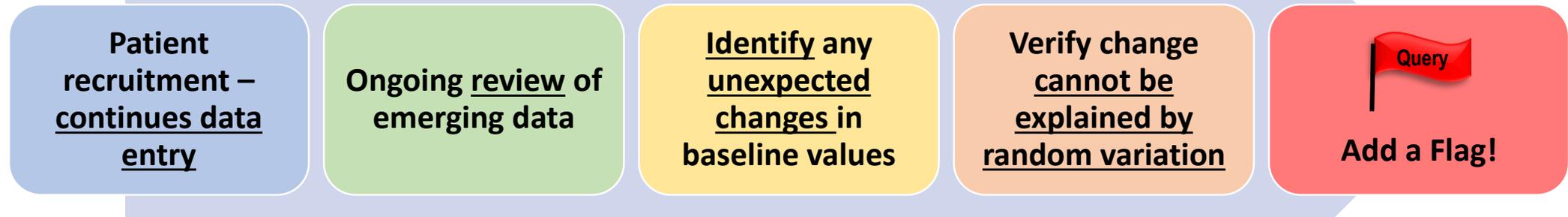
Calendar dates+ **clock times**  
(**sometimes even seconds!**)

- In case the CRF design **fails to capture time with sufficient accuracy**, we will **loss statistical power**.

# The future holds:

## Implementation of statistical process control into the eCRF

For monitoring complex systems:



- This could be done while the trial is still running!
- In a **conventional locked clinical database** such artefacts are **identified only during data analysis**, it is then **lowering the trial power**.

Thanks for listening!!!

