ClinicalTrials.gov

Top Questions and Answers about the Transition to the Modernized ClinicalTrials.gov and Modernized PRS

Responses to top questions about the transition to the modernized ClinicalTrials.gov website and the modernized Protocol Registration and Results System (PRS) are provided below.

Modernized ClinicalTrials.gov

1. **Will the classic version of ClinicalTrials.gov be retired?**

   The website under development between 2020 and 2023 is the modernized ClinicalTrials.gov, as of June 2023. To give users time to adapt to the modernized site and to minimize disruptions, the classic version of ClinicalTrials.gov remains available but will be retired eventually. We will communicate specific information about the timing of this in advance, so users can prepare, and we anticipate sharing such communications in 2024.

2. **I bookmarked the classic ClinicalTrials.gov site. Will my bookmark still work?**

   With the transition to the modernized ClinicalTrials.gov in June 2023, many bookmarked pages were redirected from the classic website. We redirected as many pages as possible, but not all bookmarked pages were redirected and users may encounter broken links. When you are redirected to the new site, you can edit the bookmark in your web browser. We appreciate your patience with the redirected URLs as the transition to the modernized site continues.

3. **Is there going to be a new API that replaces the current API?**

   A draft API for the modernized website has been available since January 2023 to provide lead time for anyone who will need to transition from the existing API. The draft API is being updated based on user feedback, and the modernization team welcomes your comments and questions on this and other changes to support further improvements. To help users transition from the classic website's API to the new, draft API, a migration guide is now available at https://clinicaltrials.gov/data-about-studies/api-migration.

   As background, the application programming interface, or API, is a tool to help researchers and developers access the data in ClinicalTrials.gov study records. During modernization, the classic website's API remains available for use; it can be found on ClinicalTrials.gov API Home.

4. **How can I keep using the classic ClinicalTrials.gov API?**

   To continue to use the classic ClinicalTrials.gov website's API, your API client must support HTTP redirects with status codes **301 Moved Permanently** and **302 Found**.

   If your API client supports these redirects, your API client can still use the classic site's API HTTP endpoints, described on the API URLs page (https://classic.clinicaltrials.gov/api/gui/ref/api_urls), without changing all API URLs from "clinicaltrials.gov" to "classic.clinicaltrials.gov."

   If your API client does not support HTTP redirects with status codes **301 Moved Permanently** and **302 Found**, change all the URLs in your code from "clinicaltrials.gov" to "classic.clinicaltrials.gov." For example:

   - The Data Version URL should be changed from https://clinicaltrials.gov/api/info/data_vrs to https://classic.clinicaltrials.gov/api/info/data_vrs.
   - The API Version URL should be changed from https://clinicaltrials.gov/api/info/api_vrs to https://classic.clinicaltrials.gov/api/info/api_vrs.

5. **Are the search results on the modernized and classic ClinicalTrials.gov websites the same?**

   As a result of improving the ClinicalTrials.gov website for all users, search results are not the same on the modernized and classic sites; the modernized site's search results are more refined. Because there are significant differences between the search algorithms for the two sites, users can expect to see a different number of results returned for the same search. Examples of the differences in the search logic include the following:

   - With the modernized site's search logic, synonym recognition is more precise.
   - On the modernized site, if a location and distance are specified on the search form, the search results will be biased by proximity to the closest location for every study.

   We created a guide for researchers that describes the differences between the search logic for the classic site and for the modernized site; it includes more examples like these.

6. **Can I save my search?**

   ClinicalTrials.gov is exploring ways to make available updates to a user's search or updates on specific studies of interest. Currently, you can select the studies you are

interested in from the search results, download them as a CSV or JSON file, and save the file on your computer or phone for reference.

7. **Will I see my favorite features from the classic ClinicalTrials.gov website on the modernized ClinicalTrials.gov website?**

Many of the core features of the classic website are available now on the modernized site. These include the search function, study record details, download in CSV and JSON, and a new API. While not all features are available on the modernized site, most will be migrated. User feedback and usage informs which additional features will be migrated and in what order. To learn about the latest updates to the modernized ClinicalTrials.gov, please visit the [Release Notes](#) page.

Modernized PRS

1. **Will PRS users be able to flip between the modernized PRS and the former PRS?**

Yes, you can switch between the modernized PRS and the former PRS. For any features that are not yet available on the modernized PRS, you will need to use the former site. But whatever changes you make using one site will appear on the other.

2. **If I'm working in the former version of the PRS, will my updates also appear in the modernized PRS?**

Absolutely. Data submitters can use the modernized PRS to work on real study records. Any information entered and saved in one site will also be saved in the other, so your work will not be lost. For example, you can make changes to a record using the modernized PRS, and those changes will also be saved in the former PRS.

3. **Currently, we can view and export only 250 records using the modernized PRS. Are you planning to expand this limit?**

The current record limit in the modernized PRS is temporary. When it is removed, all the records will be displayed in the modernized PRS's Record List. In the meantime, there is no limit on the number of records that can be downloaded using the former PRS.