

Community Partners



The Importance of Community Engagement

The following slides are recommendations developed by Community Partners intended to address some of the issues expressed by CABs/CAGs and communities around site closures

Community Engagement

Site Closure

- Site closures have a huge impact on the communities where research is being conducted
- Special attention should be given to how the information is conveyed to communities (local meetings or forums vs. email)
- Principal Investigators and/or other key trial staff members should consider attending meetings to discuss site closure
- Transparent communication between researchers and communities around site closure should include:
 - Expression of sincere gratitude for the time, commitment and energy of participants and CAB members
 - Clear and accurate information about studies that will continue, patient referrals timeline, future CAB meetings and communications

Community Engagement Site Closure

(continued)

- If patients will remain on study ongoing communication should be maintained with the CAB for the duration of the study
- If monthly meetings cannot be maintained, every other month or quarterly meetings should be considered
- The CAB should be given a timeline for study and CAB phase out
- Ongoing communication with the community post phase-out should be explored post-phase, e.g. emails, for the site to remain in good standing in the community and to help ensure future community support and trust

Community Engagement

Site Closure Communications

- Site closures have a huge impact on the communities where research is being conducted
 - Transparent communication between researchers and communities around site closures is critical
 - CABs/CAGs should have clear and accurate information about site closures and should be included in providing feedback as to how information can be shared with communities and stakeholders
 - Special attention should be given to how the information is conveyed to communities (local meetings or events)
 - Principal Investigators and/or other key trial staff members should consider attending meetings to discuss site closure

Community Engagement

Site Closure Communications Plan

- Principal Investigators and site staff discuss and develop a communications plan
- Develop key messages to be communicated about site closure
- Identify the various socially and culturally appropriate communications methods to be used for CAB/CAB and other specific audiences
- Identify CAB/CAG members to help deliver and/or facilitate communications to broader community
- Discuss frequency of delivering message
- Discuss chain of communication within the research team, CABs/CAGs and stakeholders
- Discuss procedures to anticipate, monitor and address community concerns related to site closure
- Discuss procedures for keeping participants informed of trial results after site closure
- Provide CAB/CAG and stakeholders with ongoing updates regarding trial closure

Community Engagement Resources

To assist in helping participants and communities stay connected and informed:

- Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination
 - www.hanc.info
- Community Partners
 - <https://www.hanc.info/cp/Pages/default.aspx>