

# Building Decentralized Clinical Trials for Patients and Clinicians

## Decentralized clinical trials (DCTs) mitigate the traditional burden experienced by patients while maintaining equivalent standards of care and data collection.

In fact, many of the tasks conventionally performed at investigator sites can be performed remotely using digital platforms which can in turn create new operational efficiencies, reduce the travel and scheduling complexities for participants, and enhance the overall reach of recruitment efforts for geographically dispersed patient populations.

While sponsors had already started to explore DCTs before the COVID-19 pandemic, the past year has seen a surge in the adoption of DCT models. With this, the industry now has a considerable body of experience and evidence to test the strengths of existing DCT models, assess how to make trials more effective and efficient, and how to improve the patient and clinician experience.

In 2020, PPD commissioned a survey among global biopharmaceutical and biotech organizations to gain insights into the status of trends in the clinical trials market, including the threat to trials, patients, and data presented by the global progression of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Taking a deeper look at the experiences of organizations implementing DCTs and the challenges and opportunities described, here are three key findings from the study.

### 3 Key Themes Observed

#### 1 Complex

**Clinicians and patients alike are worried about the complexities of decentralized trial solutions.** Some clinicians worry that DCTs present challenges for participation, and improvements must include more patient-friendly interfaces, and better education and training for all parties, including caregivers.

#### 2 Efficient

**Both clinicians and patients agree that DCTs create efficiencies and are less time consuming:** no commuting, no office visits, and a more streamlined process. DCTs also keep clinical development timelines on track with limited interruptions, which is one of the most important factors for clinical trials.

#### 3 Excited

**91% of stakeholders would try a new solution product,** platform or feature with a trial if given the chance. Clinicians in particular believe that DCTs reduce the burden for patient participation while increasing patient access and diversity.



### What's Next? Optimization.

It is crucial for sponsors to reflect on their experiences with DCTs and to gather input from all stakeholders — including CROs, clinicians, patients, site staff and caregivers — to assess where solutions have been successful and where more attention and innovation is needed.

Our full report includes aggregated industry feedback, mitigation strategies, and details on how existing trends are being embraced.



Stay ahead of the curve with the Decentralized Clinical Trials Survey Report from PPD.