

A Standardized Model for Recording & Reporting Institutional Review Board Metrics



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IRBs are under the microscope for review efficiency. However, comparison of metrics across IRBs can be ineffective due to the variations in IRB procedures and review processes. There is increased urgency to develop a standard approach for recording and reporting IRB metrics.

THE NEED

Progress has been made toward defining standard IRB metrics that are valuable for evaluating IRB efficiency. However, there are components that are missing in order for the full picture to be understood and effective comparisons made. **We need:**

A model that doesn't assume the same chronology of events is used at every IRB.

Some IRBs do things in a different order. Some reviews don't follow the usual order an IRB normally uses. Some reviews cycle through the same steps several times before moving on. Let's account for that.

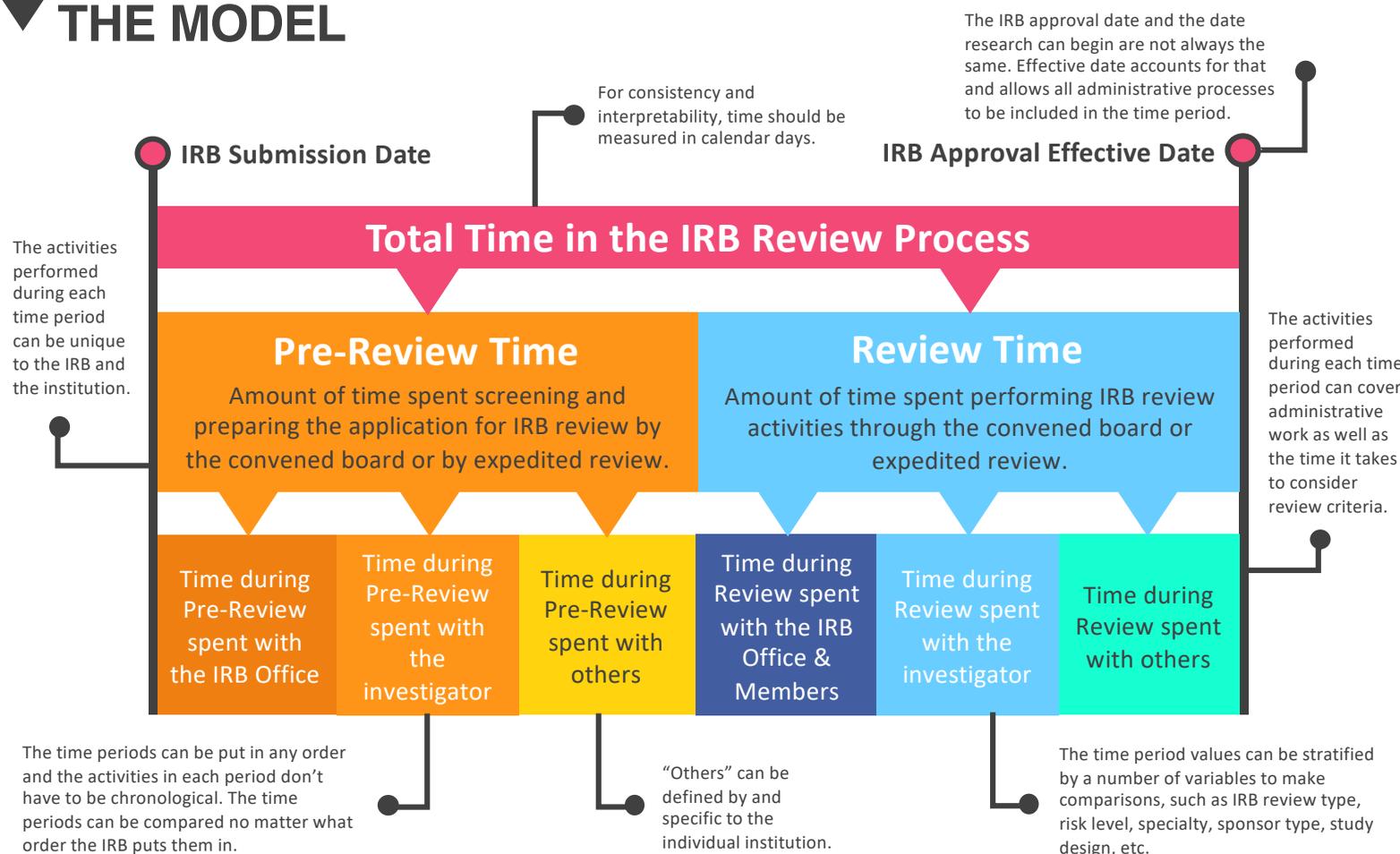
A model that takes into account the time investigators and others take to perform their role.

Investigators take time responding to revisions and questions. Other review groups, like Conflict of Interest, Safety Committees, and Department Reviews, may take time during the IRB process to confirm components of the application. Let's accurately count and report that time.

A model that allows each IRB to define the review activities it performs during a period of time.

IRB review activities can look very much alike, but the differences matter. IRBs should group these activities in time periods that make sense to them. Let's account for that.

THE MODEL



THE METHODS



Evaluated the IRB review phases/states at 3 IRBs.



Evaluated the existing metrics models from the NIH CTSA Common Metrics Initiative¹ and the AAHRPP Annual Metrics Report².



Developed a model that accounts for the additional, needed components.

THE LIMITATIONS

IRBs need to actually measure and record their time and effort. Electronic systems can help automate this, but it make require manual tracking.

More IRBs need to put this model to the test, to confirm that the model can fit their process.

REFERENCES

- Common Metrics Initiative. National Institutes of Health Clinical and Translational Science Awards Program. <https://ctsc-ctsaa.org/common-metrics-initiative>. Accessed on 16 July 2019.
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