

## ✦ CASE STUDY

# Markey Cancer Center Earns NCI Designation with Help of OnCore

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## The Challenge

In 2006, the center fully implemented the OnCore® Enterprise Research System to centrally manage its robust portfolio of trials and to put a system in place that would assist the center with earning NCI designation when it decided to pursue the opportunity in the future. In 2009, the center set its aspirations in motion and began preparing for the review.

The review process required a rigorous evaluation of the center's research processes, including its administration of clinical trial management. It also required the center to report on a wide variety of data across its trials.

## Solution: OnCore "Stamp of Approval"

While preparing for its review, the center relied on OnCore to provide the reports that were required by the NCI. "We used OnCore to generate tables that had to be submitted with the grant proposal," said Dave Gosky, director of administration and finance at the Markey Cancer Center. "The biggest benefit was the ease with which we could generate Summary 4 [Clinical Research studies] data."

Without using a centralized system for managing the research data, the process would have been frustrating and time consuming. "Trying to manage all aspects of the clinical trials and all the data elements contained within would have become a full time job for multiple people," Gosky explained. "Sorting, searching and categorizing the trials

## Customer Profile:

The Markey Cancer Center was founded in 1983 and is a dedicated matrix cancer center established as an integral part of the University of Kentucky and the UK HealthCare enterprise. The Markey Center has nearly 75,000 total patient visits annually, and it has more than 200 clinical trials currently under way.

would have been extremely time consuming as well. With everything entered into the central OnCore database, not only is the data readily at hand, it can be easily accessed by anyone who needs it.”

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**Dave Gosky, Director of Administration and Finance, Markey Cancer Center**

Furthermore, NCI reviewers regard the OnCore system as the standard of excellence for clinical trial management, according to Gosky. This assisted the center with its onsite review. By responding that the center used OnCore to manage its trials, the center received a “stamp of approval” without having to endure an extreme level of questioning it would have otherwise received, Gosky said.

“One of the items that NCI site visitors review is how administration keeps track of clinical trial data,” Gosky said. “Being able to say ‘we use OnCore’ ensured that the NCI reviewer had a favorable response to the issue of clinical trial management.”

## **The Result: Markey Named 68th Designated Cancer Center**

In 2013, the center announced that it had been designated by the NCI, becoming the 68th center in the country to earn the distinction. The designation offers numerous opportunities for the center to advance its cancer research:

- Up to \$1.5 million annually in additional funding
- Access to the latest in cancer research clinical trials
- The ability to attract more of the best medical students and faculty on an international level

- An increase in community engagement, including volunteers, patient advisory groups, and education and intervention programs
- The ability to communicate and collaborate on new advances in cancer care with other NCI-designated cancer centers across the country

## **Planning for Renewal**

The University of Kentucky also plans to implement biospecimen management functionality within OnCore across its research enterprise. In addition to helping the university more efficiently manage its biorepository, the cancer center anticipates that implementing the functionality will also assist with its renewal. “We anticipate using the additional functionality to help with our current management of biospecimens, as well as the review of our shared resource facility for our competing renewal in four years,” Gosky said.

## **Conclusion**

As a centralized system for managing clinical trials, the OnCore system provided the center with the ability to easily create and submit required reports to the NCI and it helped the center receive a “stamp of approval” for clinical trial management.

Overall, the OnCore system helps a cancer center set itself apart, which is important in the review process. “NCI reviewers understand the excellence that OnCore offers, and if a cancer center wants to become NCI-designated, excellence is mandatory in all aspects of the grant,” Gosky added.