

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).

Modernized ClinicalTrials.gov Top Questions and Answers

1. Will the former 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 former 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 former ClinicalTrials.gov site. Will my bookmark still work?

When the transition to the modernized ClinicalTrials.gov occurs in June 2023, many bookmarked pages will be redirected from the former website. We will redirect as many pages as possible, but not all bookmarked pages will be 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 we transition to the modernized site.

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 updated based on [user feedback](#), and the modernization team welcomes your comments and questions on this and other changes to help us make further improvements.

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 former website's API remains available for use; it can be found on [ClinicalTrials.gov API Home](#). A formal guide to migrating from the existing API to the new API is available as of June 2023.

4. Are the search results on the modernized and former 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 former 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. Some 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 are 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 former site and the modernized site, and it includes more examples like these.

5. Can I save my search?

We are 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 text, CSV, or JSON file; and save the file on your computer or phone for reference. You can also print the selected studies.

Modernized PRS Top Questions and Answers

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

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

2. If I'm working in the classic PRS, will my updates also appear in the modernized PRS?

Absolutely. We want to emphasize that data submitters can use the modernized PRS to work on real study records. Any information entered in one site will 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 classic 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 classic PRS.