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The Benefits and Risks
of Migrating to a Modern CTMS

Running a clinical trial is a tremendous undertaking that demands careful planning and execution.

Given the serious and sensitive nature of the information involved in a trial, it's crucial to stay organized and ensure information remains secure. Historically, this process involved using multiple computer systems to track data about various components of clinical trials such as the study design, trial site information, contracts, and finances, among others.

Today, clinical trial management systems (CTMS) serve as a central hub for clinical trial data, improving the efficiency, accuracy, and compliance of clinical trial operations. However, as the clinical trial landscape evolves, so do the demands placed on these systems.

Though legacy CTMS still support data management, they offer limited functionality and are very expensive to maintain. They're also almost impossible to upgrade to meet the changing functionality and regulatory requirements.

Modern CTMS are cloud-based, providing easy-to-use interfaces and features such as enhanced configuration capabilities, advanced reporting, open API for integration with other eClinical systems, and security measures.

Limitations of Legacy CTMS

While once revolutionary, legacy systems now pose significant limitations in functionality, adaptability, and cost-effectiveness. To stay in compliance with changing regulations, sponsor companies, contract resources organizations, and academic institutions need a more efficient, flexible solution.

Legacy systems are very time-consuming to replace due to their complex data structures, but it's worth the effort and upfront investment.

Benefits of Migrating to Modern CTMS

Compared to legacy CTMS, modern systems offer greater scalability, making them a much more compelling choice for organizations looking to optimize their clinical trial operations. Other benefits of migrating to a modern CTMS include:

Enhanced Efficiency

Modern CTMS solutions help to streamline and automate operational processes and routine tasks, such as creating user-specific personal dashboards, sending out reminders, generating study progress reports, and completing data validation checks. By automating these processes and tasks, modern CMTS allow clinical research teams to continuously optimize the efficiency of their trial operations and engagement with various stakeholders and study centers.

Less Expensive Over Time

Migrating to a modern CTMS requires an upfront investment, but ultimately leads to lower training, operational, and maintenance costs over time compared to legacy systems. This results in long-term savings for organizations. Ask the vendor you're considering if they offer a fixed implementation price so there are no surprises.

Improved Data Accuracy

Modern CTMS software uses the latest technology to make real-time system updates, which reduces the chance of manual errors. This enhanced functionality contributes to improved data accuracy, minimizing any discrepancies that could impact study outcomes.

Advanced Reporting and Analytics

Unlike legacy CTMS, modern solutions offer real-time access to trial progress and patient enrollment data. Configurable report templates allow research teams to make more informed decisions and develop more strategic plans without asking for vendor support. With older systems, someone typically has to manually run a report overnight or at the end of the week.

By then, the data is usually outdated and not as relevant. The report would also have to be customized specifically for the individual customer, which is time-consuming.

Better Data Security and Compliance

Legacy systems lack the functionality to protect against data breaches, whereas modern CTMS solutions ensure robust data security and compliance with evolving regulatory requirements. With configurable, role-based access to data, organizations can rest assured that modern CTMS solutions, like BSI Life Sciences' software, strictly adhere to 21 CFR PART 11, ICH-GCP E6(R2), and GDPR requirements.

Enhanced Collaboration and Communication

With a modern CTMS, organizations aren't locked into using specific systems. The software can seamlessly integrate with most other systems in an organization's tech stack, such as EDC systems, project management tools, site payment solutions, and more. By centralizing data accessibility, modern CTMS solutions facilitate better collaboration among trial stakeholders.

Real Standard Product

Modern CTMS solutions are built in collaboration with the end users from various types of companies within the life sciences industry, and therefore optimized to support real-world clinical trial management processes. There is little to no need for customer-specific enhancements, which are difficult to maintain and move over during upgrades to new standard versions.

Risks Associated with CTMS Migration

Migrating from a legacy CTMS to a modern system is necessary to keep up with the times, but it is not without its challenges and risks. It's important to understand these potential risks in order to make the migration as seamless as possible. Common migration challenges include:

Implementation Challenges

While modern CTMS solutions are fairly easy to implement, it can be very difficult to extract, clean, and convert the data from the legacy system to fit into the structure of the new CTMS. Transforming non-compliant data, customizing the new system, and training staff in new workflows can also cause delays. However, when choosing a modern system, the vendor will train staff on the new system within a few days.

Data Migration Concerns

Migrating data from one system to another is a delicate and complex process.

Organizations must be prepared to address potential compatibility and data integrity issues during the migration to minimize the risk of data loss and optimize data migration efforts. That's why it's recommended to only migrate the most pertinent data needed to execute ongoing clinical trials. Data from closed and archived studies may be available for analysis in a separate data dump stored somewhere else, like the new modern CTMS.

Cost and Resource Allocation

When deciding to migrate to a modern CTMS, organizations must consider how the software migration, CTMS implementation, and annual costs fit into their budget. When reviewing and testing potential systems, it's important to analyze the features, costs, support models, and Saas subscription fees carefully to avoid unexpected costs. It's best to opt for a multi-year contract when possible to lock in the price. Organizations must also determine if they have the staff, time, and technology resources to execute a successful migration.

Why Migrate to a Modern CTMS

Migrating to a modern CTMS offers various benefits including enhanced efficiency and usability, improved data accuracy, and better compliance with industry regulations. However, it's important for organizations to also consider the risks associated with a CTMS migration, including temporary operational disruptions, implementation hurdles, and unexpected costs.

Despite these potential challenges, it's clear the benefits of migrating to a new system outweigh any potential risks.

Choosing a modern CTMS allows organizations to optimize their clinical trial operations, stay compliant, and drive innovation in healthcare.

When assessing your organization's needs, consider migrating to a CTMS like the one offered by BSI Life Sciences. With its comprehensive features and commitment to customer satisfaction, the BSI CTMS is updated annually, making it easy to add enhancements. If you have any questions, contact BSI or schedule a product demo.

Next Best Action: BSI Life Sciences

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