Clinical Research Operations Continuity Plan in Response to COVID-19

The GW Medical Faculty Associates (GW MFA) is actively responding to daily updates about the COVID-19 emergency. As you may appreciate the COVID-19 pandemic has significant potential to impact research study subjects, and we ask that all researchers to read this message carefully to inform their actions and plans in this rapidly changing situation that impacts our entire community. We aim to continue clinical research in ways that are safe for all involved.

Effective Monday, March 23, 2020, GW MFA is suspending all in-person, non-essential research participant visits. Patients who are enrolled in protocols that require specific treatments should continue to be evaluated. Every effort must be made by the study team to minimize visits and perform evaluations remotely if at all possible. Any study patient who should be seen must go through the standard clinical screening at the South Entrance of the GW MFA building.

Study teams should review the study protocol and try to minimize the number of visits or make alternate arrangements to complete the visits without in person meetings (Skype, Zoom, phone call, etc.). Researchers should cancel or make alternate arrangements for all scheduled non-essential visits as soon as possible. Research that can be conducted virtually/remotely can proceed. It is critical that the PI discuss any change in procedures with the Sponsor in a timely manner. New studies especially those that involve COVID-19 should continue to be submitted to our research office for evaluation.

Please review the attached Guidance and contact your clinical trial sponsors to ensure that remote visits and shipment of medication is permissible.

We will continue to monitor the situation, refine our plans in response to your questions and feedback, and update the clinical research continuity plan as needed.

More information on research guidance will be posted on the GW MFA COVID-19 website, covid19gwhealth.com. We are grateful for your help in addressing this unprecedented challenge.