Improved RIA Submission Process Launched!

Beginning March 1, 2022, UAHS Research Administration will be accepting all project submissions via our new online portal. Click here for the new UAHS Project Submissions site, which requires UA NetID login. Respond to the questions to determine which submission form to use and click on the specific form button to begin your submission. If you already know which form you need, click on the “All Forms” button, select the appropriate form and click on the plus “+” sign (upper right hand corner) to begin your submission. All submission requirements remain the same (i.e. study related information and supporting documents). Incomplete submissions will not enter our workflow until all requirements are met. There is a minor update to the required documents for RIA New Study Submissions. The PDF printer version of the related eIRB application should be included in the RIA as this includes the Local Study Team Members, IRB number, as well as many of the required documents for a complete submission.

Please contact us at crc@email.arizona.edu if you have any questions or require assistance with utilizing our new online submission portal. One on one RIA support is also available by scheduling a session through Microsoft Bookings. You will receive an email confirmation with a Zoom meeting link.

“Discover” – A New Powerful Tool for Data Projects at Banner

Banner has a new, powerful, self-service, user-friendly data exploration tool called Discover that allows Banner/UA researchers to create patient cohorts based on their specific needs. It provides access to de-identified EMR and billing data from current day, going back to 2014.

Individual trainings and demos are available and can be coordinated through Porter Foulger, Sr. Director of Population Health and Research. Please reach out to porter.foulger@bannerhealth.com with any specific requests or trainings.

A Discover training video created for Banner/UA can be viewed here: https://youtu.be/6skKHFp-hXvg

About Discover:

- Discover provides self-service access to de-identified/aggregated data. It is for the initial purpose of cohort creation, data exploration, and trial feasibility.
- In order to get identifiable information for recruitment, researchers still need to go through the IRB and Honest Broker processes. Please contact Don Saner at Banner for more detail on this.
- Discover training guides and resources can be found in the Research Catalog, or by going to the Teams folder: Discover Resources.

Update to Banner Masking Practices

ATTENTION: Banner Hospital has issued an update for masking practices in their facilities. Please see attached Infographic.
OnCore’s Role in Billing and Invoicing

Study visits **must** be logged into OnCore within 24 hours of occurrence whenever Banner Health (BH) or Sonora Quest Lab (SQL) services are utilized for a research study (i.e. medical imaging, ECG, clinic visits, etc.).

This includes research-related **AND** routine/standard of care.

UA Coverage Analysis (CA) provides detailed information for billing designations. Study calendars in OnCore reflect these billing designations. A copy of the CA is uploaded into OnCore for the study team’s reference.

Billing designations should **ONLY** be changed if there is a corresponding footnote that gives details of when and how to change the designation. In the absence of a footnote, please reach out to crc@email.arizona.edu or OnCoreSupport@email.arizona.edu.

Changes to the CA **MUST** be approved by the UAHS Research Administration and BH Research Finance (BHRF) teams **before** charges can be changed.

This process helps to ensure that bills are routed to the correct payer, alleviate incorrect billing, and most importantly helps to protect your study subject!

BHRF reviews and validates all charges logged into OnCore against what has been billed in Cerner. Charges are then generated and billed to the research study or subject’s insurance as verified by the coverage analysis.

If you have questions regarding the OnCore calendar, contact OnCoreSupport@email.arizona.edu.

Questions regarding the coverage analysis? Contact Research Administration at crc@email.arizona.edu. Requests to amend the CA must be submitted via the **RIA amendment process**.

HIPAA Transmission of Protected Health Information (PHI) Data

If you are sending an email that contains subject PHI, you **MUST** send the email in a **secure email**. New email controls to protect the security of PHI are coming to the University of Arizona! These controls, collectively known as Data Loss Prevention (DLP) will be implemented in the coming months. The **HIPAA office will be presenting information DLP which will include how DLP will affect the way we send PHI and what guidelines you will need to follow.**

- **HIPAA Resources**
  - Definition of Key Words
  - HIPAA Data Reference Guide
- **HIPAA Encryption Standards Policy**
  - Methods for Securely Emailing PHI
- **Box Health Policy**
  - Box Health Requirements
- **HIPAA Zoom**
Banner Vaccinations for Study Monitors

Banner Health partners just has released guidance on vaccine requirements for vendors and contractors entering Banner facilities that are in support of the federal requirements and in alignment with pending OSHA and CMS regulations. For research, this would include any contracted providers, equipment repair teams, those delivering supplies, auditors, and research study monitors. This will be a phased implementation as non-vaccinated or non-exempt individuals will still be allowed entry Nov. 1 – Dec. 31, 2021, but must be compliant by Jan. 1, 2022.

In addition to adhering to the masking requirement and gating criteria, all vendors will now be required to complete the mobile attestation [https://visitorscreening.bannerhealth.com/](https://visitorscreening.bannerhealth.com/) upon arrival at a Banner facility. If vaccine or exemption criteria are met, they will be cleared to enter; if not met, they will be tracked as non-compliant but allowed to enter Banner facilities during the 60-day grace period. Attached is some templated language that you can send to your vendor/study monitor in advance so that the requirement to complete the mobile attestation upon arrival is not a surprise.

This process is subject to change based on state and federal requirements. Please reach out to your assigned CTSM if you have questions.

Updates to New Clinical Trials Submission Process

The introduction of the new eIRB and eDisclosure systems require updates to the existing submission process for new clinical trials. Funded studies will receive notice of feasibility approval and an approval to move forward with UA IRB submission after the coverage analysis is complete. This deferment in UA eIRB submission will eliminate duplicate COI disclosure requests and streamline consent form revisions. The change will not alter the UAHS contract and budget timelines, so the overall time for study start-up should remain the same.

Research Services from Sonora Quest (SQL) or Lab Services (LSA)

In order to better identify and provide research services, SQL and LSA have updated the requirements for feasibility review and contract requests. SQL is currently working with the University to establish a streamlined process for the completion of required contracts prior to the request of services. Detail and timeline of the implementation will be shared in the coming weeks.

COVID-19 Research and Sample Request Guide

Investigators wishing to initiate a COVID-19 study that would require biospecimen collection should contact Dr. Sairam Parthasarathy at sparthai1@arizona.edu for patient access.

Please submit any request for COVID-19 samples at [https://biobank.uahs.arizona.edu](https://biobank.uahs.arizona.edu) or [http://redcap.link/covid19request](http://redcap.link/covid19request).

To review available samples in the biobank, please see the Biorepository Summary. For more information, please review the attached guide or contact Dr. David Harris, Director of the Health Sciences Biorepository at davidh@arizona.edu.
Research Intake Application (RIA)

RIA Support is available by scheduling through Microsoft Bookings. A Zoom link will be provided in your email confirmation once you schedule your session.

Informed Consent Form (ICF): To ensure we have accurate documents for coverage analysis review, we have updated the required documents for Research Intake Application (RIA) submission. Effective February 15, 2021, new and amendment study submissions to the RIA require that the submitted ICF template includes tracked changes with any required Banner or UA language.

Protocol Amendments: It is very important that protocol amendments be submitted through the RIA process as soon as you receive them. Protocol amendments undergo a review and update of the coverage analysis (CA) and the OnCore calendar/financials. Both can be completed concurrently with IRB review and approval. IRB approval is not required for RIA submissions. This will allow us to update your OnCore calendar so it is ready for release as soon as IRB approval is received.

Clinical Trials Website: Please be sure to “opt-in” to having your study published on this website. This can be found on pages 5-6 of the Research Intake Application (RIA). It is a great way to build collaboration within the research community and for potential study subjects to find studies. We are adding a “COVID-19 Research” heading for all studies associated with this category. If your study is not currently listed, please contact our office at crc@email.arizona.edu.

RII Research Restart Checklist for COVID Research

NOTE: Banner updated their Research Guidance (attached) for research studies on 05/1/2021. Access to their facilities may impact the approval of research studies.

In an effort to protect patients, team members and the community, Banner Health is now requiring all employees to receive the COVID-19 vaccine by Nov. 1, 2021. This includes all University of Arizona Health Sciences (UAHS) faculty and staff who are also employed by Banner Health. UAHS leadership and the UA Office of General Council are reviewing how this will impact UAHS research staff.

The UA has transitioned to Modified Phase 5 of the Research Re-Start Plan in August 2021. This means that restart checklists are no longer required. Information on Modified Phase 5 is located here.

- For COVID studies occurring in Banner space, approval from the UA-COVID committee is required. If you have approval, please indicate this in the abstract section. If you are not sure you have approval, please email Anna Valencia (Phoenix).
OnCore Workflows by Study Role for Study Start-up and Amendments

We are continuing to refine and enhance our training documents to educate study teams of how OnCore fits into their research studies. We have created the attached workflow chart to illustrate the study teams OnCore responsibilities and how they work with Research Administration’s responsibilities.

OnCore Training and Individual Consultations

OnCore Support provides self-service scheduling for support sessions through Microsoft Bookings. Individual consultations are available in a HIPAA-compliant Zoom environment in case research subject data is reviewed. A HIPAA Zoom link will be provided in your email confirmation once you schedule your session.

Monthly trainings for new OnCore users will continue on the same schedule, with training sessions held the first full week of each month (occasionally adjusted for holidays or other events). Available trainings are posted one to two months in advance.

The OnCore website provides information about scheduled trainings and individual support sessions on the Training and Consultations page. Please feel free to sign up if you would like first-time training, a refresher training, or one-on-one OnCore help!

To register for the next training sessions, please complete an OnCore Confidentiality Agreement and send your training request to OnCoreSupport@email.arizona.edu. The next trainings are scheduled as follows:

- **Introduction to OnCore and Calendar Validations**
  Tuesday, March 8 or April 5, 1 pm - 3 pm
- **Subject Management Training**
  Wednesday, March 9 or April 6, 1 pm - 3:30 pm
- **Regulatory Training**
  Thursday, March 10 or April 7, 2 pm - 4 pm

If you have changed departments or need to have an additional role added to your OnCore Profile (regulatory, study coordinator, etc.), you will need to submit an updated OnCore Confidentiality Agreement to OnCoreSupport@email.arizona.edu prior to the role being added. Additional training may be required.

We are also available to attend department or research unit meetings. This is a great way to receive direct support for your team’s research studies and ask specific questions for OnCore Support. Please email us at OnCoreSupport@email.arizona.edu to schedule a session.

Subject Entry into OnCore

Subject entry can begin when calendars have been validated, IRB documents have been uploaded, and the study has been opened to accrual by the regulatory team. Studies will need a fully executed or signed contract prior to being opened to accrual in OnCore (as applicable). Please be sure to enter each subject’s country and zip code on the Subject Demographics page.

All subject visits MUST be checked in/logged into OnCore within 24 hours of study visit.

OnCore CTMS Data Clean-up and OnCore Support

Thank you everyone who has been working with our office to update your study and enrollment data in OnCore. Data maintenance is an ongoing project for all departments. Entry of IRB approvals and dates is very important. This data will be distributed to college and department leadership regarding the clinical research portfolios. It is very important to keep your data up-to-date to minimize study queries.

- Upload regulatory documents to OnCore.
  - IRB approval letters, renewal dates, approved ICFs
  - Include target accruals for study enrollment
- Update staff/personal changes as they occur
- Log study subject visits within 24 hours of occurrence

Visit our website to see updates and our library of resources (requires a UA NetId).
OnCore, continued

Regulatory in OnCore (REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDIES):

**New Studies**: Please upload your approved IRB documents (approval letter, protocol, and approved ICF(s)) into OnCore. Documents should be uploaded using the PC Console (PC Console > Reviews > IRB). Please verify that the NCT Number has been added (PC Console > Main > Details).

**Amendments**: Protocol amendments, IRB approval letters, and the newly approved ICF(s) (as applicable) need to be uploaded into OnCore using the PC Console. The amendment IRB approval date needs to be entered. IRB approval of the protocol amendment will help the OnCore Support team know when to release the updated calendar for the protocol amendment (as applicable).

**Personnel Changes**: Please be sure to update any personnel changes in OnCore, update IRB approval/closure dates and upload IRB approval documents (approval letters, ICFs, etc.)

**Study Closure**: Upload IRB closure notice, change the study status to "IRB Study Closure", and enter the study closure date.

**UAHS Sign-off in OnCore**

This sign-off is done by Research Administration upon completion of the coverage analysis (CA), budget, and fully executed contract (if applicable) and receipt of the IRB approved ICF(s).

**Cerner & OnCore**

OnCore is now able to push “On Study” subject information to Cerner. This will add a notification on the blue banner to the patient’s medical record that they are enrolled in a UA clinical trial. All active protocols with active subjects for have been pushed over to Cerner. Once a subject is marked as "On Study" be sure to check Cerner to verify that the blue banner appears. If it does not appear, verify that the first and last name, date of birth, and MRN all match. Phase II of the OnCore/Cerner interface is for Cerner demographics information (MRN, Name, DOB, gender, race, ethnicity, and address) to push to OnCore. This is currently under development.

**Next Steps**

- We have begun training department business offices with OnCore Financials. This beneficial tool will aid with invoicing sponsors and tracking study payments. Please have your business office contact our office at ctfinance@email.arizona.edu to initiate start-up for your department or if they have questions on the process.

- Implementation of the eRegulatory Management System (eReg) has been completed. The official launch will begin in mid-March 2022. Please contact regulatory@email.arizona.edu to initiate start-up for your department.

  ◦ We will be focusing on having departments enter new studies into eReg. Departments are welcome to enter historical studies.

Please email us at OnCoreSupport@email.arizona.edu with questions, or for additional help.
Banner Hospital billing for the months of October 2017 – December 2021 have been reviewed and sent out to the corresponding UA Departments via UABox Health. January 2022 invoices will be distributed during the second week of March.

An email has been sent to the Business Office and Study Team contacts notifying them that their invoices have been uploaded to the UABox Health and are ready for their review.

- Please process payment promptly. Payments are due 30 days from receipt of the billing in your department’s UABox Health. If there are any discrepancies, please email cfinance@email.arizona.edu for assistance. Discrepancies need to be reported within 2 weeks of the receipt of invoices. Insurance carriers have deadlines for filing and BH has a limited window for reversing charges back to insurance carriers (as applicable).

- When submitting backup to FSO, please only redact the patient’s name and date of birth, if applicable. All other information should be left visible. Please see example below (this is a fictional bill with no HIPAA information)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entity Code</th>
<th>Medical Accounts #</th>
<th>Act #</th>
<th>Patient Name</th>
<th>DOS</th>
<th>Charge #</th>
<th>CPT4 Code</th>
<th>CPT4 Code Description</th>
<th>Charge Amount</th>
<th>Adjustment</th>
<th>Balance Due</th>
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<td>40123222</td>
<td>1234</td>
<td>$2,356</td>
<td>938380</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$2,356</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2019-12-30</td>
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<td>$1,234</td>
<td>938380</td>
<td>$1,234</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,234</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Please send an email to cfinance@email.arizona.edu with your DV payment information.

- Please do not Closeout and FPC any account balances if your clinical trial protocol reflects Banner services. If you are unsure, please work with your Study Team for confirmation.

- Payments need to be processed within 30 days of billing receipt.

Please use GL Code #4215 for all payments and purchase orders to Banner Health.

This GL code was created to capture all research related expenses for ‘Various clinical trial procedures, i.e. imaging, venipuncture, labs, exams, etc..’

This allows for smoother account reconciliation and reporting.

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Sonora Quest Labs Account Set-up and/or Care360 User Request

Email requests to: cfinance@email.arizona.edu

Please include the following information with your request:
Name, Job Title, Net ID, UA Email, Phone and Fax numbers, Physical Work Address, Department, SQL Account Number (if known)
Billing Compliance Process for Clinical Trials Purchasing BH Services

The University of Arizona is obligated to log ALL study visits into OnCore. Study visits must be logged within 24 hours of occurrence whenever Banner Health (BH) services are utilized for a research study (i.e. medical imaging, ECG, clinic visits, etc.). These services are typically scheduled via Cerner on behalf of the research patient.

**ALL study visits that include BH services MUST be logged into OnCore within 24 hours.**

- This includes research-related AND routine/standard of care.

- UA Coverage Analysis (CA) provides detailed information for billing designations. Study calendars in OnCore reflect these billing designations. A copy of the CA is uploaded into OnCore for the study team’s reference.

  Billing designations should **ONLY** be changed if there is a corresponding footnote that gives details of when and how to change the designation. In the absence of a footnote, please reach out to crc@email.arizona.edu or ctfinance@email.arizona.edu.

  Changes to the CA **MUST** be approved by the UAHS and BH Research Finance (BHRF) teams *before* charges can be changed.

- **This process helps to ensure that bills are routed to the correct payor and helps to protect a study subject and alleviate incorrect billing.**

BHRF reviews and validates all charges logged into OnCore against what has been billed in Cerner. Charges are then generated and billed to the research study or subject’s insurance as verified by the coverage analysis.

If you have questions regarding the OnCore calendar, contact OnCoreSupport@email.arizona.edu.

Questions regarding the coverage analysis? Contact Research Administration at crc@email.arizona.edu.

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**OnCore Technical Support**

Technical support for OnCore is now handled by COMHelp. Requests for assistance should be submitted through the COMHelp ticketing system. This will require you to login with your UA NetID. Service requests include:

- Technical support
- Password resets
- User account troubleshooting
- Requests for reports

Please do not include PHI information with your ticket. If your ticket is regarding help with subject management, COMHelp will contact you regarding a secure method to transmit PHI or screenshots (i.e. secure email, UA BoxHealth, or HIPAA Zoom). **Tickets that include PHI will be purged from the system and you will need to resubmit your ticket.**

Technical support requests sent to OnCoreSupport@email.arizona.edu will be referred to COMHelp.
Study Close-out with IRB and Final Study Payments

Once your study has been closed with the IRB, remember to enter the IRB closure date into OnCore. Please be sure to work with your business office to verify all payments to vendors have been issued and that all invoiceable items have been sent to your study sponsor (as applicable). Clinical trial contracts have a specific timeline written into the contract to complete these tasks. If you have questions, please contact our office at cfinance@email.arizona.edu or crc@email.arizona.edu.

UAHS Clinical Research Professionals (CRP) Group Meeting

If you are new to the University of Arizona Health Sciences (UAHS) research community and/or would like to keep up with the ever-evolving changes in UAHS research, please feel free to attend the monthly CRP group meetings. Meeting time and location changes from month to month and an email reminder is sent out prior to the monthly meeting.

To add your name to the listserv, please send an email to clinicalresearchcoordinators-request@list.arizona.edu with “SUBSCRIBE” in the subject line.

“Each department/division is responsible for sending at minimum one delegate to attend the CRP meeting. If a department/division cannot attend, then the manager/ supervisor will need to attend a makeup session to review topics covered in the CRP meeting.”

We welcome your feedback!! Please let us know if there are specific topics that you would like to have covered at upcoming meetings. Please send an email to vphs-cro@email.arizona.edu.

CRP meetings will now be held every other month.

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, March 17, 2022, from 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting: https://arizona.zoom.us/j/81488925948

Meeting ID: 814 8892 5948
One tap mobile
US: +16027530140,81488925948#

CRP Group upcoming meeting schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 18, 2022</td>
<td>Zoom</td>
<td>12:00 pm – 1:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Jul 21, 2022</td>
<td>Zoom</td>
<td>3:00 pm - 4:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Sep 21, 2022</td>
<td>Zoom</td>
<td>12:00 pm – 1:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Nov 17, 2022</td>
<td>Zoom</td>
<td>3:00 pm - 4:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Dec 16, 2022</td>
<td>Kiewit</td>
<td>11:00 pm – 1:00 pm</td>
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</table>
GENERAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

UAHS Research Administration provides guidance and assistance with the following:

• Our website: https://research.uahs.arizona.edu/
• Coverage Analysis (CA) and Clinical Trial Budget development/ negotiations: contact: crc@email.arizona.edu
• Contracts (CDAs, NDAs, CTAs, amendments, data use, incoming MTAs): contact UAHSContacts@email.arizona.edu
• Regulatory contact regulatory@email.arizona.edu or schedule 1:1 session
• Post-Award Clinical Trial Accounting and Auditing: contact CTFinance@email.arizona.edu

UAHS Project Status Report: https://research.uahs.arizona.edu/facilities-and-resources (UA NetID Login required)

Research Intake Application (RIA):
Applications and required documentation should be emailed to ResearchApp@email.arizona.edu. Instructions and the application forms can be found here. If you have questions, email Research Administration at crc@email.arizona.edu.

OnCore UAHS Support: OnCoreSupport@email.arizona.edu or https://research.uahs.arizona.edu/oncore or schedule 1:1 session (calendar validations, subject management, regulatory)

OnCore Technical Support: https://comhelp.arizona.edu/ Net ID Login required (password resets, user account creation, requests for reports)

ClinicalTrials.gov Assistance:
Non-cancer studies: Kirsten Anderson, regulatory@email.arizona.edu or (520) 621-6417
Cancer studies: UACC-NCTN@uacc.arizona.edu

UA HIPAA Privacy Office: Contact PrivacyOffice@email.arizona.edu or (520) 621-1465

UAHS Global HIPAA Procedures: https://research.uahs.arizona.edu/facilities-and-resources/uahs-hipaa-sop’s (Net ID Login required)

IRB Training Opportunities
The IRB offers training on a variety of topics each month. This is a great way to stay updated on current processes and have your questions answered. The list of upcoming sessions is located on the IRB website with instructions for signing up through UAccess EDGE Learning.

REDCap Questions/Training: Contact redcap@email.arizona.edu

Data Warehouse Information: https://research.uahs.arizona.edu/clinical-trials/resources#data

UA Clinical and Translational Science (CATS) Research Center: http://cats.med.arizona.edu

COM-P Clinical Research website: https://phoenixmed.arizona.edu/research/clinical-research/investigators

Banner Badge Request: Contact clinicalresearch@email.arizona.edu

Banner Cerner Help: Contact the Banner IT service desk at (602) 747-4444 or in Tucson, call (520) 694-HELP (4357). Select Option 6 for assistance with Multi-factor Authentication.

Cerner Access/Training: Contact your department’s assigned Banner Health Clinical Trial Senior Manager. https://research.uahs.arizona.edu/clinical-trials/cerner

Sonora Quest Laboratories Account Set-up: email request to ctfinance@email.arizona.edu


SQL Care360 Training: Contact the Customer System Team at (602) 685-5465 or SQLCustomerSytens@SonoraQuest.com to schedule training. Please be sure to include your SQL departmental account number when requesting training.
OVERVIEW
Our purpose throughout the pandemic has been to save as many lives as possible while keeping our health care workers safe. With that mission in mind, we’ve closely followed CDC guidelines, aligning our practices and procedures with those guidelines when they impact either our teams or Sofia. That’s why we’re moving to require mandatory COVID-19 vaccines for all Banner team members by Nov. 1, 2021—to protect one another, our patients, our families and the communities we serve.

As members of the health care field, it’s our duty to do anything necessary to provide the safest care environment possible for our patients and each other.

Why do I have to get the COVID-19 vaccine?
As Banner team members, we’re committed to unparalleled safety, quality, service and innovation. Many of us have already been vaccinated but we must be at 100% to help stop the spread of this deadly virus and keep our patients, visitors and colleagues safe. As members of the health care industry, any steps we can take to protect our patients and one another are the right thing to do.

Why are we making the vaccine mandatory now?
We have encouraged team members to get the COVID-19 vaccine since they were first made available. Now that cases and variants are increasing, we feel it’s our duty caring for the most vulnerable of our communities that we take every step possible to safeguard our patients and our teams from this deadly disease.

How do I prove I have received my vaccine?
If you’ve received your COVID-19 vaccine and need to submit proof, here’s a quick and easy guide for the submission process. If you previously submitted proof of vaccination, no further action is needed.

Why am I being asked to submit a photo of my vaccine card to Occupational Health?
Occupational Health is the official medical record for health care workers. All immunization records are currently housed in the system (such as flu, measles, etc.). Federal reporting requirements may include vaccine manufacturer and dosing information, which is displayed on the vaccine card.

I previously submitted my proof of vaccine—can I confirm Occupational Health has my record?
To verify that Occupational Health has your vaccine information, visit this link. If it says you are fully vaccinated, no further action is needed. Please do not resubmit cards to Occupational Health. You may get a pop-up that says Request Access. Please do not click request access, close your browser window and click the link again to refresh your access; if it pops up again click not now.

Is it legal to require team members to get a COVID-19 vaccine?
Yes. State and federal employment laws allow private companies to mandate vaccinations. This is the same process we have taken with the flu vaccine and it has been an important step in delivering safe, quality care and helping to protect the health of our team members.

Will I lose my job if I don’t get the vaccine?
Obtaining the COVID-19 vaccination or having an approved exemption on file is a requirement for continued employment beginning Nov. 1, 2021. We don’t know yet if a booster will be required annually but if it is, that will also be mandatory.

Will there be exemptions from this requirement?
Requests for medical and religious exemptions from the COVID-19 vaccine will need to be submitted to Occupational Health for consideration. Forms to make this request will be provided in the online COVID-19 toolkit no later than Aug. 1, 2021.

What is the deadline to be fully vaccinated?
All Banner team members must be fully vaccinated or have an approved exemption on file with Occupational Health by Nov. 1, 2021.
Is getting the COVID-19 vaccine safe?
There are no reported serious safety concerns with the COVID-19 vaccines. The CDC and the FDA will continue to monitor individuals who’ve received the vaccine to ensure there’s no evidence of even rare safety issues. As health care workers we have a duty to protect our patients and each other. Please also keep in mind that COVID-19 can be a fatal or debilitating disease, even in young, healthy people. The risks from contracting the virus are greater than the possible risks from receiving the vaccine.

Are medical staff, volunteers, Banner Staffing Services team members, external contract labor, vendors, contingent labor, and students required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?
Yes - this is required for all these populations.

I have had COVID-19, so why am I required to get a vaccine?
At this time, experts do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. The immunity someone gains from having an infection, called natural immunity, varies from person to person and the evidence suggests natural immunity may not last very long in some people.

Can’t I still contract COVID-19 even if we’re vaccinated?
The intent of the vaccine, like flu, is about lessening the morbidity and the mortality. The COVID-19 vaccine is designed to lessen the severity; it’s not a guaranteed prevention. As members of the health care industry, any steps we can take to protect our patients and one another are the right thing to do.
In alignment with CDC guidance, below are our current masking practices that keep you safe. 

NOTE: Always follow the precautions listed on isolation and procedure rooms. The masking guidance below is secondary to these precautions.

Safe Masking Practices

- **DO** choose the right mask for the right task
- **ALWAYS** wear your mask properly, covering your nose and mouth
- **DO** remove your mask completely from your face for taking sips of drinks
- **DON’T** double mask or wear masks incorrectly
- Masks/N95s may be worn continuously for more than one patient in some circumstances. Please refer to COVID-19 Toolkit for detailed PPE use guidance
- **DON’T** store and reuse procedure or N95 masks. If removed from your face for more than a short drink, discard the mask and obtain a new one

Mask Use and Choices

**Cloth Face Coverings**

- Can be used continuously in non-patient care locations only (e.g. corporate offices, other non-patient care business locations); must be worn continuously
- Can be used to enter and exit patient care locations when reporting to or leaving work. Must be changed to a procedure mask upon arrival to department

**Procedure Mask**

- Continuous mask for ALL staff in patient care locations
- Worn during all routine patient care unless other PPE is required according to isolation sign on patient door
- Must be discarded and replaced if removed from face for longer than a short sip/drink, or when the mask becomes moist or soiled
  *Reminder, If the mask is worn in a droplet, droplet/contact or enhanced precautions room it must be discarded*

**N95 Respirator Mask**

- N95 and Face Shield Required:
  - All team members entering a COVID suspect/positive patient room (enhanced precautions) *Reminder, limit personnel present during an AGP to prevent risk to team members*
  - Team members in higher risk locations, such as an emergency department or dedicated COVID unit **may** opt to wear an N95 continuously, with the required use of a face shield to protect the mask from contamination
    *Reminder, If the N95 mask is removed at any time it must be discarded*

**Personally Owned Medical Grade Masks**

- Team members who purchase their own medical grade masks may use them as their continuous mask if they meet at least the minimum requirements of protection listed above, and are responsible for their proper fit, maintenance, and cleaning
- Team members are REQUIRED to change into a Banner approved/provided procedure mask or N95 when entering isolation rooms

As we continue to respond to this very challenging situation, we’re committed to keeping you safe and saving as many lives as possible.
SUBMIT PROTOCOL TO RIA

VALIDATE/UPDATE PC CONSOLE

ADD STAFF
Including Identifiers & Credentials

ADD SPONSOR

ADD INSTITUTION & STUDY SITES

ADD DIAGNOSIS

ADD ALL IRB APPROVED DOCS
Including Protocol, ICFs, IRB approvals, etc.

OPEN TO ACCRUAL

Oncology Only:
BUILD PROTOCOL SHELL
Submit to SRC for Approval

BUILD PROTOCOL SHELL
Upon CA & CARM Approval

BUILD CALENDAR

BUILD FINANCIALS

RELEASE CALENDAR
Upon upload of Approved ICFs

SIGN-OFF BUTTON
Confirmation of Budget & Contract Approvals

VALIDATE CALENDAR

ADD SUBJECTS

ADD STATUS DATES
As They Occur

CHECK IN VISITS
Within 24 Hours

STUDY TEAM
IRB COORDINATOR

RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION

STUDY TEAM
CLINICAL RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Email notification
Required for amendments as applicable

LEGAL

research.uahs.arizona.edu/oncore
OnCoreSupport@email.arizona.edu

research.uahs.arizona.edu/oncore
OnCoreSupport@email.arizona.edu

Version 8/27/21
For Contracting Support:
UAHSContacts@email.arizona.edu
UAHS Contracting questions and assistance including: clinical trials, material transfer agreements, confidentiality agreements, data use agreements, research collaborations, new student/resident service rotation contract requests, and more.

For Research Intake Applications:
ResearchApp@email.arizona.edu
Research application submission for new projects, amended projects, and retrospective chart reviews.

For Clinical Trials:
CRC@email.arizona.edu
Coverage analysis, budget development and negotiation support. Research Intake Application (RIA) questions.

For Clinical Trial Post-Award:
CTFinance@email.arizona.edu
Clinical Trial account reconciliation, sponsor payments, budget forecasting, and accounts payable functions.

OnCore Support:
OnCoreSupport@email.arizona.edu
CTMS questions, training, inquiries, updates and general questions.

For New Grants: Pre-Award
Preaward@email.arizona.edu
Grant pre-award questions including new submissions, searching for grant funding, advice on submission strategy, and letters of support

For Existing Grants: Post-Award
Postaward@email.arizona.edu
Grant post-award questions including post-award management services (progress reporting and closeout), guidance on expenditure allowability, interpreting sponsor and institutional policies, and regulations.

For Clinical Research Operations Support:
VPHS-CRO@email.arizona.edu
Clinical research questions, open clinical trial listings, study coordinator services, study preparation, and management questions.

For Regulatory Support:
Regulatory@email.arizona.edu
Regulatory submission assistance, Research Intake Application (RIA) navigation and questions, ClinicalTrials.gov, and general questions.
Guiding principles: The goal of this memo is to update the guidance surrounding non-essential research and research personnel operating in a non-clinical care capacity within Banner facilities associated with the University of Arizona (see #3 and Table, below). This update continues to balance safety to both research personnel, study subjects and compliance with local & federal (NIH) regulatory and research safety protocols that may be modified as needed. The different elements of safety that require a fine balance are derived from several avenues: COVID-19 exposure, study-related interventions that may require monitoring, and patient clinical care that oftentimes occurs in areas where research is carried out, among others. The primary focus is to protect research participants, researchers and the larger community from risk of infection with COVID-19 as well as to ensure ongoing access to research that may provide essential support and care to participants. This update focuses on changes to clinical research gating criteria at Banner in response to lower COVID-19 positivity rates and the increasing number of vaccinated research personnel and participants.

Necessary and ongoing mitigation measures: In general, any in-person research encounter or visit for both observational and therapeutic research occurring in a Banner Health facility that can be converted to a virtual or telephonic visit should continue to be conducted remotely. For those research visits that cannot be conducted remotely, the frequency of these visits should be decreased. Consenting of patients should continue to be conducted remotely whenever possible.

1. COVID-19 Research: All COVID-19 studies occurring in Banner Health facilities may continue at this time. COVID-19 research activities may occur in designated COVID-19 areas and select clinics, outpatient, and inpatient environments granted that proper precautions are followed. Permissible research activities include but are not limited to facility-based participant recruitment, participant interviews, biospecimen collection, imaging acquisition, interventional procedures, physical assessments.

2. Clinical research involving clinical interventions that have the potential to be lifesaving or disease-altering (i.e oncology): These studies may continue to recruit, enroll and monitor study subjects in Banner Health facilities with proper COVID-19 safety precautions. Permissible research activities include but are not limited to facility-based participant recruitment, participant interviews, biospecimen collection, imaging acquisition, interventional procedures, physical assessments.

3. Research that involves clinical visits, obtaining clinical samples during planned clinical procedures or that are protocol mandated for lifesaving or disease-altering studies, or obtaining observational or safety monitoring data: These visits may continue in conjunction with a clinical standard of care visit or procedure that the participant has scheduled or is protocol required. Permissible research activities include but are not limited to biospecimen collection, imaging acquisition, interventional procedures, physical assessments, safety monitoring. These visits should occur in close collaboration with individual Banner Health facility leadership team (specifically in the OR, ICU, ED, outpatient procedure areas/clinics), follow all proper COVID-19 safety precautions and will be subject to facility procedural triage guidelines if/where deemed necessary. Research visits that are not aligned with clinical standard of care visits or those that require additional personnel in Banner facilities may now be resumed with proper COVID-19 safety precautions in place. These activities include biospecimen collection requiring additional research personnel in Banner facilities (OR, ED, ICU, procedure areas) and observational and ancillary research that requires visits to Banner facilities outside of standard clinical visits.
4. **Sponsor Monitoring Visits:** It is encouraged that all external sponsor monitors be fully vaccinated prior to conducting monitoring visits that need to occur in Banner Health facilities. Otherwise, the visit should be held remotely.

For studies that involve research visits/procedures (with exception of research covered under 1-3 above)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study status</th>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Mitigation strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not open, not recruiting</td>
<td>May open and begin new recruitment</td>
<td>In addition to CDC, Banner Health and UArizona Research Restart guidelines, decrease frequency and convert in-person to remote visits whenever possible. Amend regulatory procedures as needed. Limit on-campus study staff and on-site roles to personnel required to conduct the in-person visit. UArizona research staff will be allowed on site as needed but will collaborate closely with Banner Health clinics and hospital operations and will abide by all safety standards currently in place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open, not recruiting</td>
<td>May begin new recruitment when appropriate. Continue monitoring as required by regulatory procedures.</td>
<td>In addition to CDC, Banner Health and UArizona Research Restart guidelines, decrease frequency and convert in-person to remote visits whenever possible. Amend regulatory procedures as needed. Limit on-campus study staff and on-site roles to personnel required to conduct the in-person visit. UArizona research staff will be allowed on site as needed but will collaborate closely with Banner Health clinics and hospital operations and will abide by all safety standards currently in place.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Study or regulatory coordinator completes eIRB application, leaves in pre-submission state. Downloads eIRB application as a pdf file and attaches to RIA application and submits to UAHS-RA.

UAHS-RA reviews RIA submission for completeness and submits to Banner for feasibility review and approval (if needed).

Feasibility Approved
*Upon receipt of feasibility approval, UAHS will notify study teams that non-funded studies can be submitted to IRB. Feasibility approval date must be added to eIRB.*

Coverage Analysis (CA) developed, submitted to Banner and approved.

UAHS-RA submits UAR proposal to route for internal approvals.

SPCS reviews, approves, and notifies UAHS-RA of Institutional Proposal (IP) Number.

UAHS notifies study team of IP number and lets them know that the submission to eIRB can now proceed for funded studies.

Study or regulatory coordinator links the eIRB application to the UAR number in eIRB, adds feasibility approval date, and submits application.

UAHS: negotiates contract and budget
COI: completes review
IRB: completes review
With safety Banner’s top priority, it’s our responsibility to reduce risk for those we serve, and one another. We care for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities and owe it to them to take every measure possible to offer the safest care environment possible. With that guiding priority – Banner implemented a COVID-19 vaccination mandate for its team members effective Nov. 1, 2021. By taking this important step, we’re protecting our team members and patients from a disease causing significant morbidity and mortality.

To ensure this level of safety, Banner is requiring all vendors who come in contact with patient care areas or our team members to be compliant with our vaccination mandate effective Nov. 1, 2021. This is in addition to continuous masking, regardless of vaccination status.

As a valued vendor, we appreciate your patience and support as we take all measures possible to offer our patients and teams a safe place to work and receive care.

What does this mean for you?

As of Nov. 1, 2021, we’ll begin our facility screener verification process. That means prior to or upon arrival at one of our facilities, our screeners will direct you to complete a COVID-19 vaccine status attestation on your mobile phone.

- Complete the mobile attestation each time you arrive at a Banner facility: [https://visitorscreening.bannerhealth.com/](https://visitorscreening.bannerhealth.com/)

- Be prepared to enter the manufacturer of your vaccine, date(s) received or if you have an approved exemption with your employer. If vaccine or exemption criteria are met, you’ll be cleared to enter; if not met, you’ll be tracked as non-compliant but still be allowed to enter our facilities during a 60-day grace period.

Please note, after Jan. 1, 2022, those who do not meet the vaccine attestation criteria via the mobile app will not be permitted to enter Banner facilities. In some rare instances, emergency exceptions may be granted by facility leadership.

This process is subject to change based on state and federal requirements. Thank you in advance for helping us continue caring for our patients in a safe environment. Please let me know if you have any questions about this.

Sincerely,