

Clinical Research GLOSSARY

Version 4.0 September 2026
Summary of Updates and Changes

Introduction:

This is the fourth version of the MRCT Center Clinical Research Glossary: Version 4.0 September 2026. The MRCT Center is committed to full transparency when creating the Clinical Research Glossary. This Summary of Updates and Changes outlines how the resource has been modified since the last edition.

Version 4.0 September 2026

- 23 additions
- 0 removals
- 3 changes to existing terms and content

The details of these modifications follow below.

You can access the updated Clinical Research Glossary online and as downloadable Excel and PDF documents here: at www.mrctcenter.org/glossary/

Clinical Research Glossary Additions:

The following terms, along with their plain language definitions, and additional information, were added to the Clinical Research Glossary:

- abstract (research)
- active comparator group (active control group)
- allocation (research)
- antagonistic effect
- clinical hold
- cohort study
- confirmatory clinical trial
- data sharing (research)
- equipoise
- funder (research)
- methods (research or study)
- n-of-1 study
- overall survival
- phase 1 (study)
- phase 2 (study)
- phase 3 (study)
- phase 4 (study)
- Plain Language Summary (PLS) - study results
- Plain Language Summary of Publication (PLSP)
- pragmatic study
- run-in period
- study suspension
- unblinding

Clinical Research Glossary Removals

There were no terms removed from the Clinical Research Glossary.

Clinical Research Glossary Changes

The following existing terms were assigned new C-codes and NCI thesaurus links:

None

The following existing terms had changes to the plain language definitions or other content elements.

- **disease-free survival**
Plain language definition changed from “The length of time after treatment that a person lives without the illness coming back” to “The length of time after treatment without the illness coming back,” to make it applicable to individuals and groups.
- **progression-free survival**
Plain language definition changed from “The length of time without a person's illness getting worse” to “The length of time without an illness getting worse,” to make it applicable to individuals and groups.
- **sponsor**
Plain language definition changed from “The group that is in charge of, or pays for, a research study” to “The person or group that has overall responsibility for a research study and may also provide funding for the study,” to emphasize the ultimate responsibility of sponsors and downplay funding as a defining feature of being a sponsor.