

# The Expanding Role of the Advanced Practice Provider in National Cancer Institute Sponsored Trials

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## Background:

- The National Cancer Institute (NCI) supports the largest United States network of clinical trials through two programs: National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) & NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP).
- NCI has removed barriers and changed policy and guidelines for APPs to have greater and more meaningful roles in NCI sponsored trials

As of Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> 2021: IND agents and standard of care agents, may be written by qualified APPs without a physician co-signature.

APPs must be registered with the NCI as Non-Physician Investigators (NPIVRs).

Qualified APPs may include: NPs, PAs, CNS, Pharmacists and Advanced Degree Nurses & be licensed and qualified per institutional policy, local and state laws and regulations.



## NCORP protocols allow:

- APPs will be qualified to:
  - ❖ Serve as chairs (PhD only)
  - ❖ Serve as co-chairs (PhD, DNP, PharmD, or Master's)
  - ❖ Serve as a local investigator to consent and enroll patients
  - ❖ Prescribe/write orders



## Methods:

- Representatives within the NCI worked with APPs, Nurse Scientists and Physicians from research bases to advocate for changes in the NCI guidelines and policies
- The SWOG Cancer Nursing Research Sub-Committee and Palliative and End of Life Care Committee launched a five-year APP Engagement Project
- A working group with representation from the NCI and all of the NCTN/NCORP Research Bases was developed to support the APP initiative

## Implications for Practice

- Policy and guideline changes permit APPs to participate consistent with their scope of practice
- Increased APP education and engagement with the NCTN/NCORP Network can increase accrual and improve conduct of clinical trials
- APPs can significantly contribute to protocol development and leadership in NCI sponsored research
- APPs involvement in clinical research provides patients with increased access to latest treatment options
- APPs involvement in clinical research provides opportunities to expand clinical skills, research expertise, professional development and career satisfaction

## AUTHOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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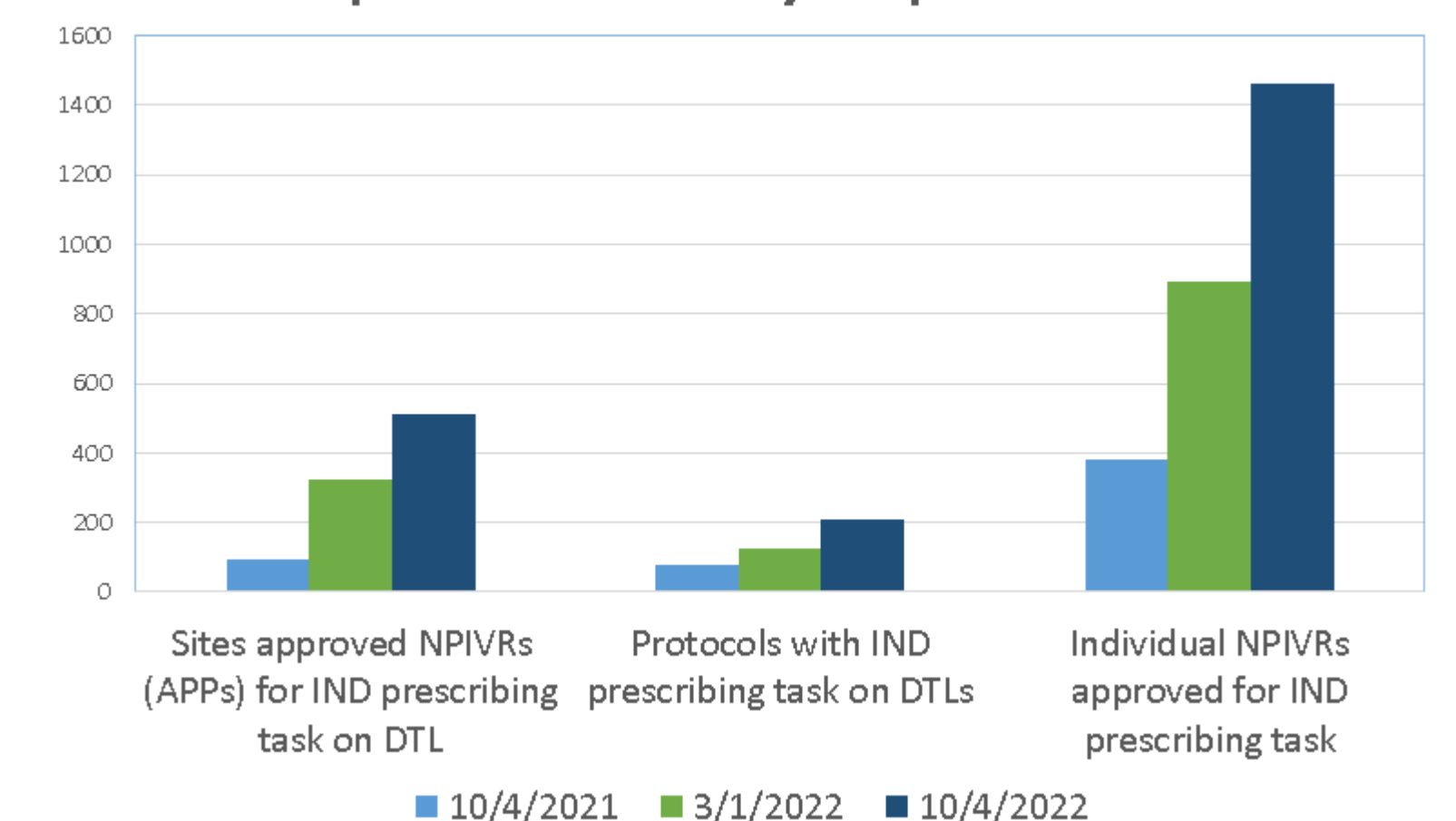
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## Results:

- 1,007 NPIVR's listed in NCORP-SYS as members of NCORP's (as of 4/1/22)
- More than 100 physicians, APPs, nurses and research professionals participated in the SWOG APP symposium in April 2022
- The University of Rochester Cancer Center Research Base NCORP led an APP-specific symposium in June of 2022 to highlight, facilitate and encourage APP leadership and participation in clinical trials

Updated APP Policy: Implementation Data



## NCORP & Non-NCORP NPIVR Enrollments to NCORP Trials

	8/1/19 – 7/31/20	8/1/20 – 7/31/21	8/1/21 – 7/31/22
NCORP Clinical Trials			
NCORP Enrollments	0	458	648
Non-NCORP Enrollments	0	0	2
NCORP CCDR Studies	0	2	147
Total	0	460	797