What to look for in the ultimate global clinical supply partner

Changing regulations, importation requirements and many other factors can have a negative impact on international trials. Selecting an experienced and innovative global clinical supplies partner, like **CSM**, can support the success of a study.

In an increasingly complex and competitive world, it is not always easy to ensure that a clinical trial is finished on time, in budget and has a high level of quality. Having a detailed plan that covers supplies, storage and distribution is key.

But what five key characteristics should a global clinical supplies services partner have in order to be able to mitigate risks and deliver outstanding results?

Experience with multinational studies

Today more than ever, proven experience is vital. The success of a trial depends on the service provider's ability to conduct international studies, deal with global trial complexities, and manage operational, regulatory and coordination challenges. Being specialised in clinical trial supplies and biological sample management services is necessary to handle the many specific challenges and constant changes in the industry.

Global reach

Owning facilities for clinical trials in key geographic areas on every continent gives the service provider the flexibility and agility to manage the most complex international trials. A qualified global partner network of depots that covers all parts of the world ensures that they can bring medication to patients quickly and efficiently, and handle all regulatory requirements.

Brexit capabilities

The Brexit date is now 31 October, but the UK aims to leave as soon as possible. Uncertainty surrounding the proceedings and the form of the final deal remains high. In the EU, approximately 25% of qualified persons (QPs) are UK-based. A shortage of continental, EU-based QPs is projected when their UK-based peers are no longer allowed to release drug products for the EU.

It is important to seek out a clinical supply partner that has a global presence.

To avoid shortages or delays in getting medication to patients in the UK and Europe, working with a company that is already operating on the continent is necessary considering the complex European supply chain. Having an established facility within the UK will also help ensure the service provider's ability to serve the post-Brexit EU.

Project flexibility

The capability to meet specific client or study needs is key. A global clinical supplies services provider with agile managerial and operational systems, which are built to accommodate ever-changing clinical protocol requirements and fast turnaround times without sacrificing quality, can customise its services. Selecting a partner that limits bureaucracy and reacts promptly makes working together much easier.

Creativity and innovation

There are many challenges involved in planning and organising around constant changes. A trial can be made more cost and time efficient if a service provider is selected that thinks outside the box, suggesting alternative methods to proceed and considering innovative services versus traditional ways of working. Being able to leverage its global expertise to identify and execute creative clinical supply solutions for all clients is the mark of a great international service provider.

Never before has working with a reliable, flexible and innovative partner been as important. As a Clinigen Group company with facilities in the US, UK, EU, Asia and Africa, CSM is unique in its ability to serve all prelaunch needs from clinical trials and investigator initiated studies to managed access programmes.

With EU GMP facilities in Brussels and Frankfurt that are staffed with certified QPs, and Clinigen's established facilities within the UK, CSM is also well positioned to handle post-Brexit needs.

For further information

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