tips + resources for using CommuniKIDS

CommuniKIDS CONSIDERATIONS TIP SHEET

The CommuniKIDS research team, youth ages 12-18 years, and parents co-developed a template that can be used by trialists to share pediatric clinical trial results with pediatric participants and their families.

How to use the template:

- Edit in Canva or Microsoft Word.
- Remove instructions in the coloured boxes and replace [text in square brackets] with your trial specific information.
- Use simple headings and bullet points where possible.
- Use active voice, non-technical language, and simple sentences. If technical terms must be used, consider adding in a lay definition for the word (helpful glossary: https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/48952.html).
- If sharing electronically, save and share as a PDF, which is a non-editable format and is the most compatible with text-to-speech readers.
- Keep content to 6 pages or less, or consider developing a summary version and a detailed version.
- Headings in "At a Glance" are linked to corresponding main sections in the template.
- Note: While the CommuniKIDS template was designed for results to be shared directly with trial participants, it can be adapted and used for public plain language summaries.

Design considerations:

- Add your organization's logo to suit your style and brand and customize the colour scheme.
- Customize the icons to better match your trial using free, open-source icons from healthicons.org.
- Avoid using blue font for regular text to avoid confusion with blue text used for links, or change hyperlink colours.
- Edit the template as need be for the purposes of your trial. Note that we recommend to follow the template as much as possible because it reflects the input of parents and youth.
- Periods at the end of headers were adapted for compatibility with text-to-speech readers.
- Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) guidelines were followed in the provided design.
- Consider using graphics, visuals, or videos to make summaries more accessible (e.g., video with closed-captions).

Work collaboratively:

- Involve patient partners/advisors (children, youth, and/or their caregivers) to develop plain language text and graphics for the template that match study materials and information. Give patient partners/advisors the option to opt in/out of being acknowledged on project materials, and provide acknowledgment options (e.g., full name, first name only, etc.)
- Consider engaging your institutional communications group and/or knowledge translation experts.
- Explore other ways to share results with participants and stakeholders (e.g., social media, institutional newsletters).
- Consult your Research Ethics Board (REB) and patient partners/advisors on your research team, as appropriate, for advice on when to send out the results.

Keep in mind:

- Ensure the document and your distribution plan is reviewed by your REB. Ensure that a trial results dissemination plan is included in your REB application.
- Give trial participants the option to opt in/out of receiving trial results when discussing the trial with them.
- Ensure content is permissible to share with participants. If the results are from an industry-sponsored trial, ensure sponsor has approved wording.
- Consider how web-based platforms such as ClinicalTrials.gov might be appropriate for sharing the summary.
- If you would like the CommuniKIDS team to post your completed template on the Clinial Trials Ontario (CTO) website to serve as an example on how the template can be used, consider sharing your template with us.

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