

5 Top Tips to Maximise Success for Early Phase Clinical Supply Planning

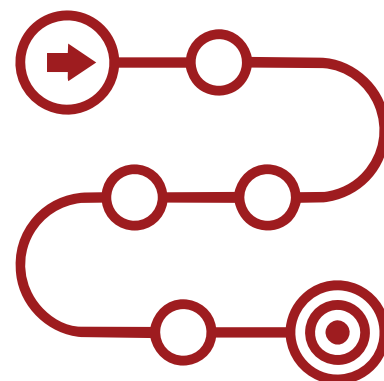


1. Plan early and plan often

Developing successful supply chains is to plan early and plan often.

If vital components of the supply chain, such as demand forecasting and production planning, packaging, labelling, logistics and distribution strategies are approached retrospectively, clinical trials can often end up operating with unnecessary risk and inefficiencies.

So plan early and plan often to avoid supply issues.



2. Start small, think big

Plans – and the supply chains they inform – need to be future – proof from the outset.

Early phase sponsors should invest time in laying the foundations that will bear the weight of later trial phases, which typically involve more patients and greater levels of risk and complexity.

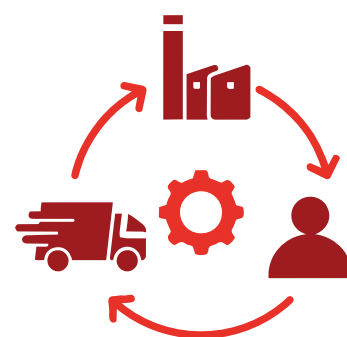
Keeping the bigger picture in mind during early phase planning, and developing best practice methods and lean processes, will help ensure supply chains are scalable and able to respond to expanding supply volumes, and unforeseen circumstances.



3. Integrate your supply chain strategy

If supply chains are fragmented, the disruption and complexity of operating early phase supply chains in the face of a crisis like COVID-19 can quickly escalate beyond control, leaving sites and patients without drugs and program performance in tatters.

By developing integrated supply chains, sponsors can enhance overall visibility, improve decision making capabilities, effectively manage changes within supply strategies, reprioritise deliverables and quickly assess patient and study impact.



4. Build informed & flexible global distribution strategies

Drug distribution represents one of the most vulnerable stages in the clinical development journey from production line to patient.

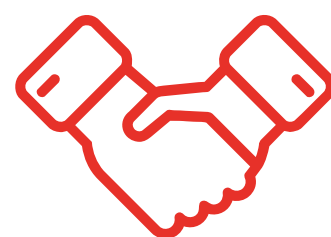
Access to a 'control tower' of real-time information relating to global drug distribution that covers country specific requirements - such as, import/ export criteria, visibility of global logistics, IRT, site supply and production planning - will help inform, develop and implement strategies to maximise early phase trial performance. Combining this knowledge with a strong, qualified and connected global partner network will also promote supply chain agility in the event of a crisis.



5. Selecting the right partner

Before selecting a partner, sponsors should make sure the CDMO organisation consists of the right people with the breadth and depth of experience to support, drive and deliver clinical supply projects through every step of the early phase study, no matter how complex.

Building integrated clinical supply chains, designed for speed, agility and performance, will help to facilitate improved visibility, better management of risk and effective contingency planning as programs evolve and new challenges appear. This in turn will support smooth and expedited transitions into later-stage programs.



To find out how Almac Clinical Services can help sponsors contact:

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