Some research proposals submitted to Clinical Science Research & Development (CSR&D) must be pre-approved by Central Office staff. This includes most trials and early-phase intervention research. In these cases, the investigator(s) must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) for review. Clinical trial means a research study in which one or more human subjects are prospectively assigned to one or more interventions (which may include placebo or other control) to evaluate the effects of the interventions on biomedical or behavioral health-related outcomes. This flow chart will help applicants determine whether their proposals require a Clinical Trial LOI.

Please note: ALL Career Development (CADE) applications must be pre-approved via an LOI. CADE applicants can use this tool to determine which type of LOI to submit.

**Clinical Trial LOI Decision Tool**

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**Start Here**

Does the proposed study include human subjects randomization and assignment to specific intervention groups/arms?

- No

Does the proposed study include a medication, pharmaceutical compound, biologic agent, or device that is not FDA approved?

- No

Does the proposed study include a medication, pharmaceutical compound, biologic agent, or device for which no IND or IDE has been obtained?

- No

Does the proposed study assess safety, dosing, efficacy, and/or effectiveness of an intervention?

- No

Are you still unsure whether you need an LOI?

- No

**Clinical Trial LOI not required**

The application process varies based on the award type.

- Merit Review

- Career Development

- No LOI required

- Submit via the usual Merit Review program process

**Clinical Trial LOI required**

You must have an approved LOI before submitting an application. The process varies based on the award type.

- Merit Review

- Career Development

- Clinical Trial LOI

- Instructions are linked on the Merit Review page on our website.

- Career Development Trial LOI

- Instructions are linked at the bottom of the Career Development page on our website.

*Click on any of these four boxes to view the relevant page on our website.*

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