

Quick Guide: Creating a New Observational Study

Research teams conducting multi-site observational (non-interventional) health studies in Ontario can now access customized application forms and apply for a streamlined research ethics review in [CTO Stream](#).

Before you create your new study in CTO Stream, you'll need to know whether your study is a clinical trial (an interventional study) or an observational (non-interventional) study. These different types of studies use different forms; you won't be able to switch part way through the review process.

Please use the [Observational Research Informed Consent Form Template](#) when creating the study-wide consent form template.

All other aspects of CTO Stream remain the same – only the forms are different, to ensure that research teams are provided with customized questions that relate to the nature of their study.

To create a new observational study application

1. Log in to CTO Stream (apply.ctostream.ca)
2. Click the “Create Project” button
3. Enter your short study title (a shortened version of the study title that will appear to all users and be used to identify the project in informal communications)
4. Select the “Observational Provincial Initial Application” form

5. Check that you are happy to continue with the addition of the CTO Support team
6. Click “Create”

TIP: Don't forget to [add other members of the research team](#) to the study. Additional user manuals and Quick Guides can be found on the CTO [website](#).

Questions? Contact us at streamline@ctontario.ca or 1-877-715-2700.

TERMS AT A GLANCE

Observational Study

In an observational study, researchers assess health outcomes in groups of participants according to a research plan or protocol. Participants are not prospectively assigned to receive specific interventions by the researcher (as in a clinical trial). For example, in an observational study, researchers may observe a group of adults to learn more about the effects of different lifestyles on cardiac health.

Clinical Trial

In a clinical trial, participants receive specific interventions according to the research plan or protocol created by the researchers.

Making Ontario a preferred location for Global Clinical Trials, while maintaining the highest ethical standards.