Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the NF/NR Process

1. The participant listed on the NF list has received follow-up of his positive test, but the follow-up occurred right after the screening exam. I have already obtained these medical records, and the interval has been abstracted. The interval on this list follows the interval in which the positive follow-up occurred.

According to our criteria for following up a positive screening examination, we require that we continue to follow a participant until:

- A definitive diagnosis is reached
- The next screening examination
- If there is no subsequent screening examination, two years from the positive screening result

In order to accurately report all follow-up care, we need to confirm that no care occurred during this entire time interval. In order to help us do this, we ask that RAs complete the NF and NR forms for these cases in the following manner to tell us that no care occurred during this (requested) interval.

- NF Form, option “C” number “8 Other Specify.” In the blank space, please write, follow-up care occurred in another time interval.
- NR Form, check the box next to [+] screen, place code “5” in the column to indicate that there are “no records to obtain,” for this interval.

2. Some of these intervals are really short.

As indicated above, we are responsible for reporting all follow-up care. Short intervals are on this list so that site RAs can confirm that no care occurred during these intervals. If no care occurred during these intervals, but follow-up care occurred during another interval, please complete the NF and NR as follows:

- NF Form, option “C” number “8 Other Specify.” In the blank space, please write: follow-up care occurred in another time interval.
- NR Form, check the box next to [+] screen, place code “5” in the column to indicate that there are “no records to obtain,” for this interval.
3. One of our participants has a very long interval that covers more than one screening test for which the results were positive. How do I indicate that the participant had follow-up for the T0 screen, but not for the T1 screen?

   Fortunately, this situation occurs only rarely. For this case, a separate NF and NR should be completed for each screening examination. Write the screening examination for which the information is relevant (T0, T1, T2) on the forms next to the interval dates. Then complete the forms for each screening exam. The abstractors will be able to abstract the information correctly onto the laptop system.

4. The participant had a chest x-ray because he was hospitalized for pneumonia, does this count as follow-up of the positive screening exam?

   If the participant was selected for abstraction as part of the 5% random sample, then records related to this chest x-ray should be collected and provided to the medical records abstractors. If not, then, because this imaging was not done to follow-up the positive screen, these records should not be obtained.

5. I have located medical records for care related to a positive screening examination that occurred outside of an interval requested for abstraction.

   Please contact Ilana at igareen@stat.brown.edu to discuss these situations so that we can ensure that we don’t miss triggering these records in the future. You should also provide these records to Care Communications abstractors for abstraction. We want to ensure that all care that has been obtained is abstracted.