



Translational Virology Core Protocols

Data Accountability

The CFAR Translational Virology Core employs established procedures that result in datum-level accountability. This means that every shared data item (e.g., an individual item response on a questionnaire, or single-valued observation) is represented in the central server database in a way that is individually accessible and traceable to its source document or source session. Additionally, each datum has an Edit status flag (or inherits the status of an Edit status flag from its source form) which encodes its review status, the last operator or program that changed its value, and the date of the last change. Edit status values include: (a) Unreviewed—the default condition for all manually entered data; (b) Algorithm checked—for range, legal value, etc.; (c) Source document verified—by whom and when; and (d) Published. The Published status flag deserves special note, for it represents a final lock on the value of a datum; even if errors are subsequently found, the datum as published will be available for future re-analysis. Revised values of data that have already achieved Published status will be represented in a separate table, so that comparison analyses can be made between originally published and subsequently revised datasets to determine whether significant differences result from the edit changes. We believe this policy is an important component of fully accountable integrity.

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