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In a world, that is fast becoming the breeding ground for new and even deadlier diseases, it has become mandatory for the medical industry to be at the top of its game. As a result, it has become necessary to try new and different medication in order to ensure the survival of the patients. Clinical trials have become the norm so as to try out different medication and test its efficiency and when it proves successful, the benefits are there for all to see. The problem with these trials is the fact that they canâ€™t be conducted by just anybody. It must be done under the supervision of the government or in some cases under the watchful of an organization that is authorized by the government to look after these tests.

This is where Clinical Research Organization comes into play. It is a company or organization contracted by a pharmaceutical, medical device, or biotechnology company (called a clinical trial sponsor) to assume various aspects of the clinical research process (i.e., to conduct clinical research trials on behalf of the sponsor). Contract research organizations employ various clinical research associates (CRA), biostatisticians, medical writers, project managers, and similar clinical research professionals to support the conduct of clinical trials on behalf of their pharmaceutical, biotech, and medical device company sponsors.

A Clinical Research Organization is typically a for-profit commercial operation; some non-profit organizations (such as some large academic medical centers) may operate like a contract research organization, but this is typically through a separate for-profit entity. Clinical investigators themselves, which are hired by the CRO or the sponsor directly to actually conduct the clinical trial at a specific location, may be part of an organization that provides CRO-like services or that provides joint marketing and clinical trial support. These are often termed site management organizations (SMO) or trial management organizations (TMO) or clinical research coordinating centers (CRC), in order to distinguish them from more traditional contract research organizations.

Having an idea about what a CRO is, let us now delve into the matter at hand; the reason why we started all this talk about Clinical Research Organization. The reason is India. All this talk was started because India is fast breaking free from its cobwebs and is moving towards being a country that is ready to welcome all sorts of industries, even ones that are just beginning to bloom into a global phenomenon. In the olden days, only the well established industries would be welcome and those that are new to the field would be cast aside, without so much as a second thought. But now, times have changed.

India is fast emerging as a preferred destination for clinical trials by global pharmaceutical and biotech companies that are looking for partnerships or for setting up new operations. Clinical Research is an upcoming field in India next to IT. Clinical Research plays a major role in our day to day life and the clinical trials are being carried out all over the world. It is a research study using consenting human subjects that tests the effectiveness and safety of a treatment, a diagnostic tool, or a prophylactic intervention. There is a great demand for this field at present and one can grow up in their career very easily if they are a part of the Clinical Research Organizations in India.

You might wonder, as to why there is a sudden surge of interest towards this field and also what the reason is behind all these Clinical Research Organizations in India, cropping up left, right and centre. Well, to answer your question, there are mainly two major reasons for its popularity. It is nothing but the easy access and availability of a large, diverse and therapy-naÃ¯ve population with vast gene pool and lower cost of technical services resulting into lower per patient trial cost. India also has the advantage of having a large pool of highly trained physicians, nurses, and technical

personnel; numerous world-class medical facilities; broadly developed information technology infrastructure; a favorable IPR environment and use of English as the primary business and medical language. The total value of clinical research performed in India in 2004-05 was about US$100 million. And as time goes on, that value is sure to rise. The major Clinical Research Organizations in India offers a wide range of services. Thus, the industry needs to know the companies operating in this field.

The basics of Science play a major role. Clinical trials vary greatly in size: from a single researcher in one hospital/clinic to an international multicenter study funded by a pharmaceutical company with over 100 participating hospitals on several continents. Clinical Research Organizations in India are slowly but surely developing into a force to be reckoned with. Its rapid development is a reason for happiness for those in the medical industry. The career growth in clinical research is very good and promising. Clinical research jobs are as equal to IT nowadays.

With the boom of the Clinical Research Organizations in India, more and more people decide to choose this field, whose only trajectory is onwards and upwards. As India catches up with the rest of the world, with respect to the medical industry, it is fast gaining a reputation as one of the fastest developing country in the field of medicine and clinical testing, which can only mean good news for all of us here.

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