

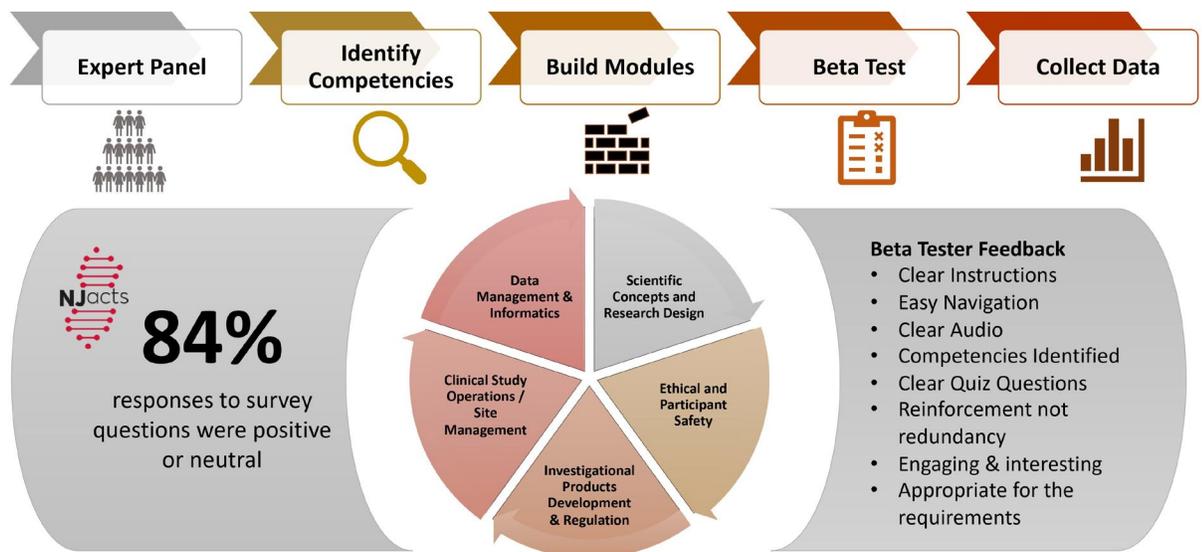


## Lessons Learned in Developing a Clinical Research Coordinator Badge

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A clinical research coordinator (CRC) digital badge offers a novel approach to addressing the ongoing shortage of CRCs at academic medical centers. We sought to pilot this low-cost, short-term training digital badge to train entry level CRCs and to attract a diverse pool of individuals. Experienced clinical research professionals outlined competencies needed by study coordinators working in an academic center, which aligned with 6 of the 8 domains established by the Joint Taskforce for Clinical Trial Competencies. Five course modules were created in a standardized format consisting of instructional videos, handouts, and a 25-question quiz (passing grade: 90%) which was hosted in the university learning management system. Beta testers were recruited to complete surveys at the conclusion of each module addressing both module performance and content accuracy. An item analysis was performed on the 25-question quiz.

Nine volunteers were recruited for the pilot and seven completed the badge. All participants, with years of experience from 0 to over 10 in clinical trials, found the course to be informative. The majority (84%) of responses on course logistics



were positive or neutral. The quiz item analysis identified most questions (86%) as either “Easy” or “Neutral,” which is ideal for a Level 1 Badge addressing foundational skills. Forty percent of the quiz questions scored high on the Discrimination Index, indicating that the quiz could identify those who performed well and those challenged by the quizzes. One negative comment received stated that the course was too intense to be completed in 4 weeks.

The results of this pilot study demonstrated that this badging course offers a low cost, easily accessible option for recruiting and training entry level clinical research professionals. The “proof-of-concept” study encouraged our initiation of the program and attempt to broaden our reach.