

# CHOOSING YOUR CLINICAL IRT PARTNER IN 2021





## **About Veracity Logic**

Veracity Logic (VL), based in North Carolina's Research Triangle area, specializes in providing subject and inventory management systems using interactive response technology (IRT) to support our clients' clinical trials. At Veracity Logic, we're as proud of our ability to manage the real-life demands of clinical trials as we are of our technology. When you work with us, you'll find that we are reliable, responsive and user friendly --we support your trial with our experienced, helpful team that is dedicated to your success.

#### Introduction

This vendor selection checklist was prompted by requests from our clients and colleagues —Sponsors, CROs, and Clinical Suppliers— for a reasonably comprehensive summary of features and issues to consider when vetting IRT vendors and systems today.

We've developed this checklist using our fifteen years of experience deploying global systems, including the critical transition years from phone to web. It contains many of the capabilities you can reasonably expect from an IRT vendor, and it is our recommended reference guide for issues to consider when selecting *your* IRT provider. We certainly hope you find it useful.

If you find you have comments or additional items you'd like to see included in future checklists, please send them to <a href="mailto:info@veracitylogic.com">info@veracitylogic.com</a>.



IRT Vendor Evaluation Checklist

## Choosing an IRT Vendor - The Checklist

### Instructions:

Assign a level of importance, or weight, to each requirement in the checklist. The weight indicates the importance of each requirement in your evaluation. There is no "right" weighting for each requirement; each company evaluating IRT vendors may have different categories that they consider important. We suggest using a simple weighting system, such as 1 (low), 2 (medium), and 3 (high).

During your evaluation, place a checkmark in the appropriate vendor column if that vendor or their system meets the requirement. To determine a score for each vendor, count the number of 1s, 2s, and 3s each vendor/system received. You can record the counts in the table at the bottom of the checklist. There you'll also find a table where you can record your observations of each vendor.

Vendor 1:	 	
Vendor 2:		
Vendor 3:		

Issue Category	Requirements	Weight	Vendor 1	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
Vendor	The vendor has demonstrated adequate				
Organization	resources for the Customization and				
	Configuration activities required for				
	timely development of the project				
	system.				
	The vendor has demonstrated adequate				
	resources for Project Management				
	activities; both during development of		Ш		
	the system and after release for use.				
	The vendor has demonstrated adequate				
	resources for providing Help Desk support				
	while the system is in use.				
	The vendor has demonstrated adequate				
	resources for providing quality controls				
	during the life of the project - e.g.,				
	independence of database production				
	and testing.				





Issue Category	Requirements	Weight	Vendor 1	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
Timelines	The vendor has the internal capability to produce a production system in 6-8 weeks from contract to deployment.				
	The vendor supports a 4-week development timeline from finalization of User Requirement Specification (URS) to release of system for Client User Acceptance Testing (UAT).				
	The vendor offers a premium option for quicker system deployment, if needed.				
	The vendor's internal processes promise a maximum of two days for Release to Production (Go Live) after receiving Authorization from the Client.				
System Interface (Overall Look & Feel)	The vendor is willing and able to provide a no-pressure demonstration of their system showing its capability to support a variety of project needs.				
	Both IWR (web) and IVR (phone) options are available for ePRO (that is, Subject Diaries).				
	The system integrates data collected in the IVR or IWR platform seamlessly and in a timely manner.				
	The system demo shows a clean, user- friendly web interface and simplicity of design.				
	The system has demonstrable, sophisticated functionality.				
	The system has an intuitive layout - e.g., a tabular format - that allows users to see available data 'at a glance' (as opposed to requiring queries to retrieve summary data.				
	The vendor has confirmed that their system performs on a variety of browsers, including:¹ • Google Chrome™ • MICROSOFT EDGE • Mozilla Firefox • Apple Safari®				

 $<sup>^{\</sup>mbox{\scriptsize 1}}$  All trademarks are the property of their respective owners.





Issue Category	Requirements	Weight	Vendor 1	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
Study Designs	The system supports a variety of study designs, including:				
	Sub-study Tracking				
System Configurability	The vendor has designed their system with a focus on configurability and a minimum of custom coding required for project requirements.				
	The vendor is able to demonstrate the ease of configuring their system.				
	End users with appropriate permissions are able to easily reconfigure key settings during the course of a study - e.g., "turn on" a cohort, and modify allowable limits on total number of screened and randomized subjects.				
	The vendor has provided examples of adequate timeframes for system modifications that do require custom coding by a Developer				
	An adequate spectrum of User Roles/ Permission scenarios is standard in the system.				
	The system allows User Roles to be easily re-configured based on project needs.				
User Training	The vendor provides an option for training Clinical Research Associates (CRAs or Site Monitors), Investigators, and Study Coordinators at Investigator Meetings.				
	The vendor provides an option for training study users via online meetings, such as WebEx or GoToMeeting, outside of Investigator Meetings.				
	The vendor includes an adequate number of training hours in their standard bid.				
User Training	The vendor provides a TEST area within the system that can be used throughout the study for self-training by client users and for train-the-trainer sessions.				
User Support	The vendor provides help desk coverage 24/7/365.				





Issue Category	Requirements	Weight	Vendor 1	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
User Support	The vendor provides access to the help desk via both phone and email.				
	Help desk phone numbers and emails for each country active in the study are readily available for users within the system.				
	The vendor provides a fast 'self-help' feature for new passwords to be requested by authorized users without requiring help desk intervention.				
	The vendor provides User Manuals and or Quick Reference Guides for end users.				
	The vendor maintains and can share adequate help desk response metrics.				
	The vendor has a documented escalation plan for unresolved support issues.				
21 Part 11 / Annex 11 Compliance	The system uses a two-part login process to identify users, such as a unique UserID (email address, for example) and password.				
	The system supports an easily configurable time frame for password expiration.				
	The system allows easy configuration of the number of failed logins permitted before resetting user accounts.				
	The system allows easy configuration of the number of past passwords that cannot be re-used.				
	The system supports an adequate array of notifications related to user passwords, including:  Initial password on user activation Password change alerts Password expiration warnings				
	The vendor can demonstrate that server uptime in the past three (3) years is greater than 99.9%.				
	The vendor can demonstrate that adequate maintenance processes are in place.				





Issue Category	Requirements	Weight	Vendor 1	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
21 Part 11 / Annex 11 Compliance	<ul> <li>The vendor can demonstrate adequate backup/restore processes, including:</li> <li>Real-time backups (to 'hot' failover server)</li> <li>Nightly backups</li> <li>Regular scheduled testing of the backup/restore</li> </ul>				
	<ul> <li>The vendor has an adequate disaster response plan, including:</li> <li>Formal Disaster Recovery/Response plan</li> <li>Disaster Communication plan</li> <li>Roll-over to failover server</li> </ul>				
	The vendor has adequate alerts/notifications when scheduled or unscheduled downtimes occur.				
	Vendor index of SOPs reflects an adequate understanding of the requirements of 21 CFR Part 11 and European Commission's Annex 11 as they relate to IRT systems.				
	The system includes a full audit trail for clinical data including:  Old Value  New Value  Reason for Change  Identifier for the user making the change				
	The vendor has documented Standard Operating Procedures that comply with accepted industry standards				
	The vendor has processes in place to prevent deletion of defined data points such as subject unblinding.				
Global reach	The system allows users with appropriate permissions to add and update countries throughout the study.				
	The system records activities in the time zone of the site/user.				
Translations	The vendor has demonstrated capability to translate phone prompts and system notifications into languages required for the study.				





Issue Category	Requirements	Weight	Vendor 1	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
Subject Views	The system allows users to see, at a glance, the status of all subjects in the study.				
	The system provides options for filtering data by site, country, status, etc.				
	The system appropriately restricts user views of data based on each user's permissions, such as the ability to view RandID, Cohort, and/or Strata values.				
	The system allows users to quickly determine each subject's next scheduled activity and expected/target activity date.				
	The system allows users to determine quickly whether subjects are within the window of their next scheduled activity				
	The system allows easy configuration of the label used to identify participants in the study (that is, can the label easily be changed to subject, patient, participant, etc.)				
	The system allows for easy configuration of study activities				
Subject Management	The system allows for easy configuration of subject demographics, such as birthdate, age, gender, initials, etc., based on study requirements.				
	The system provides the flexibility necessary to handle data privacy requirements for different countries (such as Germany where collecting full date of birth is not allowed).				
	The system allows privacy setting to be set at the site level (instead of only at the study level).				
	The system can assign Subject IDs to subjects added to the system or support allowing users to enter Subject ID.				
	The system supports Subject ID continuity across visits, study phases, or extensions.				





Issue Category	Requirements	Weight	Vendor 1	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
Subject Management	The system supports identity checks to help prevent confusion or duplication of subjects such as alerts for duplicate birthdate, initials, etc.				
	The system supports subject identity checks within or across sites				
	The system supports subject identity checks across projects				
	The system provides a method for users to easily 'drill down' to view all activities recorded for and drug assigned to a subject.				
	The system provides an intuitive method for users to easily add/enroll subjects.				
Activities Management	The system supports recording the following activities (at a minimum and as needed for the study):  Screen/enroll subject  Scheduled activities (such as randomization, drug assignments, completion, follow-up)  Unscheduled activities (such as screen failure, discontinue/early terminate/withdrawal, unscheduled resupply of drug to subject)  Emergency unblinding				
	The system supports recording reasons for activities - e.g., screen failures, early withdrawals after randomization, etc.				
	The system can easily configure and reconfigure user permissions to edit subject and activity data.				
	The system allows for Skipped Visits (allowing scheduled visits to be skipped)				
	The system allows for a scheduled visit to occur without the accompanying drug assignment slated for that visit, and maintains subject status on return				





Issue Category	Requirements	Weight	Vendor 1	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
Randomization	The system supports a variety of randomization schema, including:  Static  Stratified (by single or multiple variables)  Dynamic/Minimization  Forced  Adaptive				
	Randomization options are available via both web and phone (based on project needs)				
	The system can easily configure custom eligibility and other randomization-related questions required for the study.				
	The system provides controls for which users are able to record subject randomization.				
	The system supports easy importing of key data throughout the study - e.g., randomization, users, sites, kits, etc.				
	The vendor has a backup process for providing manual randomization of subjects in the event clinical sites are unable to access the system.				
	The system permits Subject Recovery (rescreening a subject with the same ID)				
	The system permits Subject Replacement (replacing early withdrawers in a randomization scheme)				
Subject Unblinding	The system provides users with appropriate permissions an easy-to-use mechanism for unblinding subjects when necessary, including web and phone options				
Authorization Codes	The system provides a mechanism for requiring users to receive permission from a higher level prior to performing certain actions - e.g., recording an activity out of window, unblinding, age deviation, etc.				
Cohort Management	The system supports simultaneous or concurrent activation of multiple cohorts				





Issue Category	Requirements	Weight	Vendor 1	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
Cohort Management	The system permits users to activate and deactivate cohorts as needed throughout the study				
Limits	The system supports users updating/changing limits to the number of screened and randomized subjects throughout the study.				
	The system supports users setting subject limits at key levels, including:  • For the entire study  • For each country  • For each site  • For each treatment group  • For each strata (if applicable)  • For each cohort (if applicable)				
Subject Diaries	The system offers a user diary component via web or telephone access.				
	The system has diary compliance reporting capabilities				
	The system can generate reminders/outbound calling on varying schedules.				
Shipment Management	The system supports an alert "trigger" inventory control system based on site-level inventory levels (such as initial shipment quantities, target baseline quantities, and trigger quantities).				
	The system allows for individual numbered kits AND ancillary/supplemental materials to be tracked in inventory.				
	The system allows ancillary supplies to be ordered via the system without inventory tracking.				
	The system supports a "predictive" inventory control solution based on active subjects and allowing drug wastage to be minimized in cases of tight supply.				
	The system supports a "just-in-time" option for drug allocation from central warehouse and/or depot				





Issue Category	Requirements	Weight	Vendor 1	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
Shipment Management	The system allows for global, regional depots				
	The system allows for multiple central warehouses				
	The system allows for different CTM types to be sourced from different warehouses/depots				
	The system allows users with appropriate permissions to manage the list of Kit Batches used in the study				
	The system allows users with appropriate permissions to manage the list of Regions, in which countries with sites participating in the study are located.				
	The system allows for <i>both</i> automatic and manual shipment requests				
	The system supports assigning different methods for generating shipment requests (such as Manual Only, Automated, or Predictive) to be assigned at the site level.				
	The system maintains a history of Shipment Requests, Distribution (Sends), Receipts, and Cancellations for each site				
	The system supports the ability of designated users to cancel shipment requests.				
	The system supports Direct to Subject shipments.				
	The system has robust methods of determining when drugs approaching expiration may be included in a shipment request.				
	The system supports the application of site enrollment thresholds which permit different drug resupply levels for hi, medium and low enrolling sites.				
CTM (kit) Management	The system supports a variety of labels for drug containers (e.g., kit, bottle, vial, etc.) to accommodate the needs of the project.				
	The system easily supports importing CTM data throughout the study.				





Issue Category	Requirements	Weight	Vendor 1	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
CTM (kit) Management	The system allows for both planned and available (manufactured) kits to be tracked.				
	The system supports unscheduled CTM assignment to subjects throughout the study.				
	The system allows users to report real- life problems within the system - e.g., damaged kits, missing kits, kits declared unusable for other reasons, expiring kits, mis-administered kits.				
	The system allows users with appropriate permissions to edit CTM information.				
Drug Accountability	The system supports Drug Accountability at both the unit (kit) level and/or the kit contents level.				
	Content level accountability includes the number returned, number used, and number missing.				
	The system allows sites to generate Return shipments for returning unused drug to warehouses and/or depot.				
	The system allows users to track drug destruction at clinical sites and/or warehouses and depots.				
	The system permits redistribution of returned study drug to the same subject.				
Temperature Deviation	The system supports tracking deviations from temperature requirements (e.g., frozen, refrigerated, and/or ambient) for each drug type used in the study.				
	The system quarantines CTM with temperature deviations until they can be reviewed.				
	The system allows users to designate CTM involved with temperature deviations to remain available/unavailable for assignment to subjects after review.				
	The system allows for uploading temperature deviation (e.g., temp-tale) curves at the kit level.				





Issue Category	Requirements	Weight	Vendor 1	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
Dose Management	The system supports flexible dosing schedules that are easily configured on a project basis - e.g., simple and complex Dose Escalation and Titration schedules accommodated at a Subject level.				
	The system is able to calculate subject dosing based on preset criteria - e.g., weight.				
	The system allows Manual titration with up/down changes of one or more dosing steps.				
Site Management	The system allows users with appropriate permissions to add, activate, deactivate, and update site information during the study.				
User Management	The system allows users with appropriate permissions to add, activate, deactivate, and update user information during the study.				
Summary Reports	The system provides an acceptable array of standard reports.				
	The system enables users to easily export data in a format readable by a variety of data analysis tools (such as MS-Excel and SAS) for custom/ad hoc reporting.				
	The system supports sending standard data exports to a client's secure FTP server.				
	The system provides, within the system, easily accessible summary/rollup data on subject, activities, and CTM assignments.				
Data Imports	The systems allows users with appropriate permissions to import data into the system throughout the study				
	The ability to import data including (at a minimum):  • Subject Randomization Schema  • Kits, batches, regions  • Sites  • Users				
Data Exports	The vendor is able to provide separate blinded and unblinded data exports.				





Issue Category	Requirements	Weight	Vendor 1	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
Data Exports	The vendor has a process for sending encrypted/password protected data files. To client FTP server				
	The system provides periodic (nightly, weekly, etc.) exports of blinded:  • Subject Data  • Activity Data  • CTM (Kit) Data				
	The system has sufficient flexibility in configuring export schedules to meet study needs.				
	The vendor provides end-of-study exports of unblinded:  Subject Data Activity Data CTM (Kit) Data Subject Randomization Data Audit Trail Data				
	The vendor can provide fully customized data exports for the study.				
Data Integrations	The system supports data integration/transfer with a variety of EDC, CTMS, and ePRO systems.				
	The vendor has experience sharing data with your specific EDC, ePRO, and Central Lab systems				
	System integration options include scheduled and transactional/real-time data transfers.				
	The system supports automated data imports from special 3 <sup>rd</sup> party systems, such as lab results.				
	The vendor has documented processes for data integrations and creation of Data Transfer Specifications				





Issue Category	Requirements	Weight	Vendor 1	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
System Alerts, Messages, and Notifications	<ul> <li>The system produces an adequate set of standard notifications, generated when:</li> <li>Subject activities are recorded</li> <li>Shipments are requested, sent, or received</li> <li>Subject, Activity, Shipment, or Kit data is modified</li> <li>Alerts (for missed subject visits, late shipment receipts, expiring drug, etc.)</li> <li>Site and User changes</li> <li>User Credentials (and changes to passwords)</li> </ul>				
	The system supports immediate generation of notifications.				
	The system supports periodic/delayed generation of notifications.				
	Users can choose to access notifications via email or directly within the system				
	Users can designate a secondary email or group email for notifications				
	The system retains notifications for review throughout the study.				
	The system supports sending blinded and unblinded notifications with controls based on user permissions.				
	The system employees a system of notifications based on user roles, easily reconfigured for each study.				
	The system allows new users to view notifications appropriate for their user role that were created before the user was added to the system.				
	Notification content is easily customized to meet study needs.				
IVR (phone) Interface	The vendor has existing toll free (for site users) phone service for IVR access for all of the countries required by the project				





Issue Category	Requirements	Weight	Vendor 1	Vendor	Vendor 3
IVR (phone) Interface	The IVR (phone) interface includes, at minimum, capabilities to:  • Add a subject  • Randomize a subject  • Record scheduled activities  • Perform an emergency unblind  • Receive a shipment				
	Changes made using the IVR (phone) immediately reflected in the IWR (web) and vice versa				
	The system prevents conflicts when two users change the same subject data using the phone and the web simultaneously.in projects utilizing both IVR and IWR				

Record the count of requirements having a weight of 1, 2, or 3 for each vendor.

Vendor Name	Count 1s	Count 2s	Count 3s



Record your observations about each vendor in the table below:

Vendor Name	Observations	
Selected IRT Vendo	r:	
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We're making this checklist available as a tool to help Sponsors, CROs, Clinical Suppliers, and others evaluate IRT vendors. If you have suggestions for requirements we should add to future versions of the checklist, please send them to info@veracitylogic.com. Thank you.