

Associate Director, Program Data Lead

Job ID

REQ-10086810

Sep 17, 2026

LOC_GB

About the Role

Who Will Thrive in This Role

This role is ideal for a strategic and collaborative clinical data leader who excels in complex, matrixed environments, is passionate about developing people, and is motivated by driving program-level impact through data-driven decision-making, operational excellence, and cross-functional influence. The successful candidate is a forward-thinking leader who combines strategic vision, operational rigor, and strong stakeholder engagement skills to drive consistent, high-quality clinical data outcomes across an entire development program.

What You'll Contribute

As the Program Data Lead, you will provide strategic leadership and operational oversight for clinical data strategy across an assigned development program or project. You will serve as the primary Clinical Data Operations representative at the program level, ensuring alignment between study-level execution, program objectives, and enterprise standards.

- Leading end-to-end execution of program-level clinical data strategies across multiple clinical trials.
- Driving consistency in data collection, review, quality management, and delivery approaches across studies.
- Representing Clinical Data Operations on Global Clinical Teams and key governance forums.
- Providing direction, coaching, and leadership to Study Data Leads to ensure effective execution and professional growth.
- Identifying, assessing, and escalating program-level risks, dependencies, and operational challenges.
- Influencing operational delivery strategies and ensuring data considerations are integrated into broader development planning.
- Promoting Quality by Design principles and supporting lean, fit-for-purpose data collection practices.
- Partnering with stakeholders to enhance delivery predictability, operational efficiency, and stakeholder experience.

What Differentiates This Role

Unlike traditional study-focused data management positions, this role operates at the program level, providing leadership across multiple studies and serving as the central coordination point for clinical data strategy within a development program.

- Ownership of data strategy across an entire program rather than a single trial.
- Direct leadership, line management, and development responsibility for multiple Study Data Leads.
- Representation of Clinical Data Operations in cross-functional program governance and strategic decision-making forums.
- Accountability for identifying trends, risks, and opportunities across studies and translating them into program-level actions.
- Significant influence on clinical development execution through strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and operational leadership.
- Opportunity to shape future operating models, standards, and organizational capabilities through enterprise-wide collaboration.

Essential Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in Life Sciences, Health Sciences, Data Sciences, Statistics, or a related discipline. Advanced scientific or business qualifications are an advantage.
- Typically a minimum 10 years of experience in clinical data management, clinical data operations, or related disciplines within the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, or CRO environment.
- Demonstrated experience leading multiple clinical trials, programs, or complex projects simultaneously.
- Experience providing strategic oversight, risk management, and stakeholder leadership in cross-functional environments.
- Previous people leadership, coaching, or team development experience is strongly preferred.
- Strong knowledge of clinical trial processes, clinical data management, data standards, and regulatory requirements.
- Understanding of quality management principles and risk-based approaches to clinical development.
- Experience with program-level planning, governance, and operational execution.
- Proven ability to influence and lead in a matrix organization without direct authority.
- Strong communication, negotiation, and stakeholder management skills.
- Strategic mindset combined with strong execution and delivery focus.
- Ability to manage ambiguity, prioritize effectively, and make sound decisions in a dynamic environment.
- Demonstrated commitment to collaboration, continuous improvement, and talent development.

Benefits & Rewards

At Novartis, we're committed to reimagining medicine together - and rewarding the people who make it happen.

Expected Annual Base Salary Range for role: £ 67,900.00 - 126,100.00 GBP Annual

The base salary offered is determined based on gender-neutral objectives, such as relevant skills, competencies and experience in accordance with the Novartis pay setting policy and upon joining Novartis will be reviewed periodically.

In addition to your base salary, you may be eligible for a performance-based bonus depending on certain performance parameters.

The rewards of being part of our team go far beyond base pay and incentives. We also offer a variety of competitive benefits in kind to help you thrive personally and professionally, such as insurance plans, retirement plans, wellbeing resources and global recognition programs. In addition, we provide flexible and hybrid working options, where possible, and minimum 14 weeks paid parental leave.

Pay equity is a fundamental principle of our employment policy and reflects our commitment to create a diverse, equitable and inclusive environment that treats all employees with dignity and respect, as outlined in our Code of Ethics.

Read our brochure to learn more about our global total rewards offering:

https://www.novartis.com/sites/novartis_com/files/novartis-life-handbook.pdf

Note: Benefits and compensation may vary by country and are subject to local legal requirements, including provisions of

collective bargaining agreements where applicable. A full overview of your compensation package, including any relevant collective bargaining agreement details applicable to your role based on your employment location and Novartis employer entity, will be communicated separately to you during the application process.

Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion / EEO

Novartis is committed to building an outstanding, inclusive work environment and diverse teams' representative of the patients and communities we serve.

You'll receive: You can find everything you need to know about our benefits and rewards in the Novartis Life Handbook. <https://www.novartis.com/careers/benefits-rewards> Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion: Novartis is committed to building an outstanding, inclusive work environment and diverse teams' representative of the patients and communities we serve.

Role Requirements

Primary location salary range

£67,900.00 - £126,100.00

Division

DIV_GD

Business Unit

Development

Location

LOC_GB

Site

London (The Westworks)

Company / Legal Entity

GB16 (FCRS = GB016) Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd.

Functional Area

FCT_RD

Job Type

Full time

Employment Type

Regular

Shift Work

No

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