

Checklist: Successfully Selecting Sites for Your Psychedelic Trial

The psychedelic clinical development pipeline is growing, and competition for experienced sites has the potential to slow startup timelines. That's because, although more sites are beginning to participate in these trials, the number of experienced sites is still limited, leading to an overall dearth of options.

As a result, sometimes it's necessary to explore a selection of sites with psychiatric trial experience - but that has not worked with psychedelics specifically. Here are a few considerations to help you select the sites with the least risk:

Recent experience with studies in schedule 1 or controlled drugs. Though it may be a different drug, consider the nuances of the protocol they implemented and if there is relevant overlap with your program.

Established patient referral pathway to enroll your study and located in a population with significant illness prevalence AND low competition for patients.

Staff trained in administering clinical outcome assessments.

Adequate staff to support your study, including therapists, a dedicated coordinator, separate clinical raters, and potentially an unblinded pharmacist, ideally with prior experience with clinical trials in a regulatory setting.

Proper facilities needed to store the drug securely, with adequate private space for dosing sessions and patient observation in accordance with your protocol.

It's a good idea to gauge the startup timelines based on site and country specifics to make sure they align with your study. Startup timelines vary widely by country depending on regulatory submission requirements and controlled drug licensing.

Although utilizing psychedelic-inexperienced sites may involve some risk, with careful selection, you can reduce that risk and enroll your patients on time. We've worked with over 1,300 psychiatric sites to enroll our trials and can help ensure you select the right sites for your study.

To have a deeper discussion about your site selection and enrollment strategy, contact us 