

Answering the common questions about the new interactive Costing Tool (iCT)



Phillip Good
Study Startup Manager at the Clinical Research
Network



Intro

The single requirement of an online costing tool is to enable its user to construct a simple study budget based upon activity required; it will also further our current position by evidencing the following criteria:

FLEXIBILITY - A direct reflexion of the study protocol

COLLABORATIVE - The online version must encourage and work with the user to help define the resources required to construct an accurate template that directly reflects the activities carried out within the study protocol.

INTUITIVE USAGE - That the tool itself feels familiar to the user

INNOVATION - Changing focus from being reliant on financial figures and more towards resource requirement

STRATEGIC USAGE - The iCT is only the start of a potential number of online, digital advances in study startup and feasibility including nationwide view of cost and resource information to ensure a fit for purpose tool with accessible benchmarking cost data.

THE END RESULT - we have created a translation device to turn a research study protocol into a financial schedule for inclusion within the contract for an institution to carry out a research study. This means that the single output from the iCT is a list of activities and prices in the most useful form to enable accurate invoicing and contractual confidence.

What is initially needed to use the system?

- Users without current access will need to follow the 'Create an Account' button
- CPMS access [here](#) via individual or group email addresses (multiple uses of the same group login can be used via an 'incognito' window)
- Access to the training videos and downloadable documentation on the NIHR website via the iCT [Youtube playlist](#)
- A copy of the study protocol

Documentation available on the NIHR website

Link for all supporting documentation

- [NIHR Website](#)

FAQ

- [Input to FAQ from all stakeholders, users and testers during UAT](#)

Manual National Tariff workbooks for Investigation, Intervention, Procedure and Departmental Costs

- [Investigations & Interventions](#)
- [Departmental](#)
- [Procedures](#)

Where does the data in iCT come from

- Review of MFF by NHSE (from 2008)
- Annual Salaries from NHS Employers (from 2008)
- Apprenticeship Levy from NHS Employers 0.5%PA (from 2016)
- Investigation costs based on costing group experiences and questionnaires (from 2008)
- Investigation cost baselining via Specialist Groups (from 2018)
- NHS Inflation value from NHSE (from 2016)

Governance Group (Commercial Costing Reference Group)

NIHR Clinical Research Network

NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts

NHS Service Support Departments

Pharmaceutical/Biotechnology Sector including ABPI group and ABHI representatives

Contract Research Organisations

Health Research Authority (HRA)

R&D Forum

Scottish Chief Scientist Office (NHS Research Scotland)

Health and Care Research Wales

Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network

The Association of UK Lead Research Nurses (AUKLRN)

Take Away Messages for iCT

- 1) The iCT will be the only tool for submitting a study costing to a site after 1st April 2020

- 1) Developments on usability are ongoing throughout the year

- 1) Work on scoping new costs for 2020/21 have started
 - a) CAR-T Studies
 - b) ATIMPs

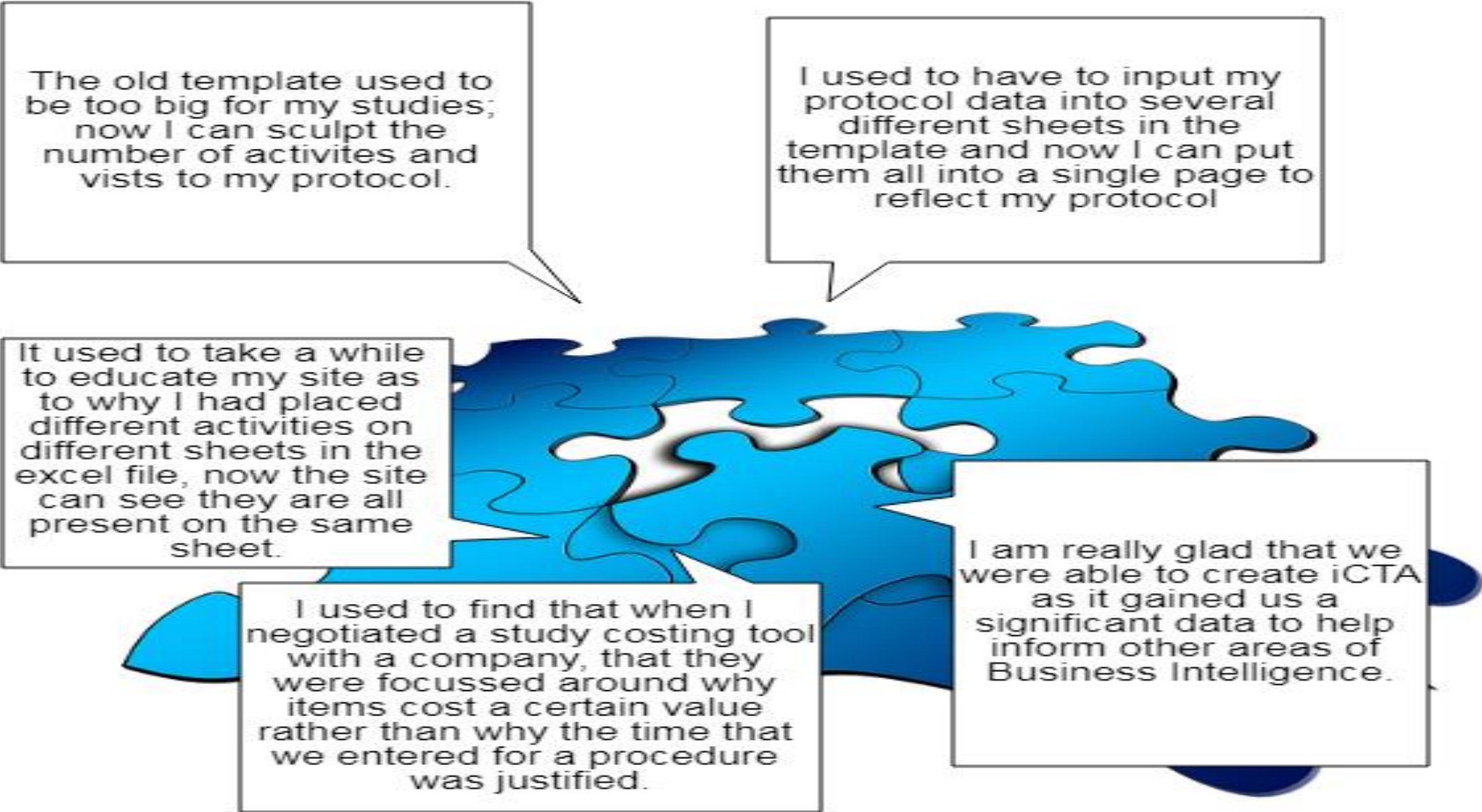
What happens now we have gone 'Live'?

General Support exists within RDD from

supportmystudy@nih.ac.uk

Additional support for first 12 month rollout

- Monthly surgeries for LCRN Industry Teams, incorporating feedback from Industry and Sites (2nd Tuesday of the month)
- Quarterly retrospectives using data on studies submitted via iCT in CPMS
- Ongoing engagement from Co-Ordinating Centre with Industry at each completed validation
- Continuous building of improvement backlog to prioritise future changes



The old template used to be too big for my studies; now I can sculpt the number of activities and visits to my protocol.

I used to have to input my protocol data into several different sheets in the template and now I can put them all into a single page to reflect my protocol

It used to take a while to educate my site as to why I had placed different activities on different sheets in the excel file, now the site can see they are all present on the same sheet.

I used to find that when I negotiated a study costing tool with a company, that they were focussed around why items cost a certain value rather than why the time that we entered for a procedure was justified.

I am really glad that we were able to create iCTA as it gained us a significant data to help inform other areas of Business Intelligence.