TROG Site Enablement Grant Pilot Program

Guidelines for Applicants

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Pilot program guidelines	1 October 2026 – 30 September 2027	TROG Cancer Research

1. About the pilot

The TROG Site Enablement Grant Pilot Program is a TROG-led initiative funded through the TROG Strategic Research Reserve to support eligible sites providing radiation therapy services to participate in clinical trials and successfully complete TROG clinical trial credentialing requirements.

The pilot will operate from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027 and reflects TROG's commitment to investing in its clinical trials network and addressing practical barriers that may prevent otherwise capable sites from opening and delivering clinical trials.

For this pilot round, funding is specifically available to support completion of current Level I (reference dosimetry) audit evidence that meets TROG policy and Radiation Therapy Quality Assurance (RTQA) requirements for clinical trial credentialing. Funding up to $1,000 is available per approved treatment machine-beam energy combination requiring Level I audit evidence.

The pilot aims to:

- remove a specific financial barrier to trial participation;
- support timely site activation and trial delivery;
- broaden patient access to clinical trials;
- support accurate and consistent radiation therapy delivery; and
- strengthen the quality and reliability of clinical trial outcomes.

Limited pilot funding
Funding for this pilot is limited. Eligible applications will be assessed competitively, against the assessment criteria in Section 5, with approval subject to the relative merit of applications and the availability of funds.

2. Why TROG requires independent dosimetric audits

Under the TROG Policy: *Minimum Requirements for Independent Dosimetric Audits in TROG Clinical Trials*, every treatment machine used to treat trial participants must have current reference dosimetry (Level I) audit evidence. Participating sites must provide evidence that a Level I audit meeting TROG policy requirements has been completed at least every two years.

The policy forms part of TROG's Radiation Therapy Quality Assurance (RTQA) framework and recognises that accurate and consistent radiation dose delivery is essential to participant safety and the reliability of clinical trial results.

Independent dosimetry auditing provides independent assurance that radiation therapy treatment machines are delivering radiation doses within accepted tolerances. This helps to:

- protect trial participants;
- reduce avoidable variation in treatment delivery between participating sites;
- increase confidence that trial outcomes reflect the intervention being studied rather than differences in dose delivery;
- support the consistency, comparability and reliability of trial data;
- support TROG's responsibilities as a clinical trial sponsor and research organisation; and
- provide confidence to investigators, participating sites, funders and consumers in the quality and integrity of TROG research.

A site may meet the dosimetry audit requirements applicable to its routine clinical services but may not hold current Level I (reference dosimetry) audit evidence that meets TROG requirements for clinical trial participation.

At the commencement of this pilot program, the **Australian Clinical Dosimetry Service (ACDS)** is recognised as meeting the TROG Policy: Minimum Requirements for Independent Dosimetric Audits in TROG Clinical Trials. Applicants should contact TROG if they require further information.

3. Funding available

Funding of up to $1,000 (GST Exc) is available per approved treatment machine-beam energy combination requiring Level I audit evidence for TROG clinical trial credentialing.

Audit Scope:
Funding under this pilot is limited to a reduced-scope Level I (reference dosimetry) audit pathway for clinical trial credentialing. The funded audit comprises:

- Cost: $1,000 AUD (GST Exc) per linear accelerator beam, ex GST
- Scope: Single-energy Optically Stimulated Luminescence Dosimeter (OSLD) audit per machine
- Attempts: A maximum of two valid attempts is included.

The treatment machine and beam energy selected for audit must be intended for use in the proposed clinical trial(s) and will be agreed between the site, TROG and the audit provider, taking into account the trial protocol and treatment techniques expected to be used.

TROG will:

- allocate the approved funding to the successful application;
- pay the approved audit cost directly to the audit provider; and
- work with the site and the audit provider to schedule the audit to support trial participation timelines while maximising the practical benefit of the audit's two-year validity period.

No funding will be paid directly to the site.

The site must provide the staff time, treatment machine access and other internal resources required to complete the audit.

Funding does not cover:

- additional beam energies beyond the single beam energy included in the approved audit;
- site staffing, administration, equipment or facility costs;
- corrective work arising from an unsatisfactory audit result;
- Level II or Level III dosimetric audits;
- trial-specific planning or credentialing activities; or
- audits commissioned or completed before TROG approval.

Funding does not create an entitlement to future funding for audit renewal, additional treatment machines, additional energies, or repeat audits.

Multiple treatment machines

Under the TROG Policy: *Minimum Requirements for Independent Dosimetric Audits in TROG Clinical Trials*, every treatment machine used to treat clinical trial participants must have current reference dosimetry (Level I) audit evidence.

A site may apply for funding for more than one treatment machine-beam energy combination, including more than one beam energy on the same treatment machine, where each combination is reasonably expected to be required for participant treatment in one or more identified TROG clinical trials. Funding up to $1,000 is available for each approved treatment machine-beam energy combination.

The site must identify each treatment machine, nominate the beam energy to be audited, and briefly explain the machine's proposed use. TROG may approve funding for some, but not all, treatment machine-beam energy combinations requested, having regard to operational need, anticipated trial activity, equity of access, competing applications and available funds.

Self-funded audit pathway

Where a site requires Level I audit evidence for TROG clinical trial participation but is not seeking, or does not receive, funding under this pilot, TROG may coordinate access to the reduced-scope Level I audit pathway through the Australian Clinical Dosimetry Service (ACDS).

A site may self-fund one or more treatment machine-beam energy combinations required for its intended clinical trial participation.

TROG will liaise with the site and ACDS to confirm the appropriate treatment machine-beam energy combination, coordinate the audit arrangements and support completion of the audit within the required clinical trial timeframe.

The treatment machine and beam energy selected for audit must be intended for use in the relevant clinical trial(s).

Under this pathway, the site will be responsible for the audit cost and no funding will be provided by TROG.

Access to the self-funded pathway is subject to availability and any arrangements agreed between TROG and ACDS.

4. Eligibility

To be eligible, the site must:

1. be actively progressing towards participation in an identified TROG clinical trial credentialing program, where the trial is expected to open at the site within the next 12 months;
2. require a reference dosimetry (Level I) audit for the treatment machine-beam energy combination proposed to be used to treat participants in the identified clinical trial(s), in order to meet TROG's requirements for clinical trial participation;
3. reasonably expect each machine for which funding is requested to be used to treat trial participants in one or more clinical trials;
4. provide any existing audit evidence to TROG for review, where applicable;
5. demonstrate that the audit cost represents a practical barrier to clinical trial participation, including where funding for the audit is not available or approved through existing site, trial or sponsor budgets;
6. commit the staff time, treatment machine access and other resources required to complete the audit; and
7. not have commissioned or completed the proposed audit before TROG approval.

Meeting the eligibility requirements does not guarantee funding.

5. Assessment and decision

Applications that meet the eligibility requirements will be assessed competitively. In prioritising applications, TROG will consider the extent to which the proposed audit is likely to enable meaningful clinical trial participation and patient access.

Assessment may include consideration of:

- **Clinical trial readiness** – how advanced the site is in progressing towards participation in the identified TROG clinical trial(s), including the anticipated activation timeframe;
- **Need for the audit** – whether the requested Level I audit is necessary to meet TROG clinical trial credentialing requirements and whether suitable existing audit evidence is unavailable;
- **Relevance of the machine and beam energy** – whether the treatment machine-beam energy combination requested is intended to be used to treat participants in the identified clinical trial(s);
- **Expected trial use** – the likelihood that the audited machine and beam energy will be used for participant treatment and whether the audit may support participation in more than one TROG clinical trial;
- **Contribution to trial delivery** – the anticipated contribution of the site to trial activation, recruitment and delivery;
- **Patient access and equity** – the extent to which supporting the site may improve access to TROG clinical trials, including for regional, rural or underserved populations;

- **Funding need** – whether pilot funding is likely to remove or reduce a financial or organisational barrier that would otherwise prevent or delay clinical trial participation, and whether other funding is readily available to support the audit;
- **Ability to complete the audit** – whether the site has the staff, treatment machine access and operational capacity to complete the audit within the required timeframe; and
- **Available program funding** – the level of funding remaining under the pilot and competing eligible applications.

TROG may give greater priority to applications where the audit is expected to directly enable near-term trial activation, support participant recruitment, improve access to clinical trials or provide benefit across more than one TROG trial.

Applications will be assessed by TROG Radiation Therapy Quality Assurance and Research Operations, with final approval by the TROG Chief Executive Officer or delegate.

TROG may approve an application in full or in part, impose conditions, request further information or decline the application.

Decision timeframe
TROG aims to advise applicants of its decision within 20 business days of receiving a complete application. Where further information is required, the assessment timeframe will commence or recommence once the requested information has been received.

6. Audit scheduling and payment

Following approval, TROG will work with the successful site and the audit provider to agree an appropriate audit timeframe.

The timing will take into account:

- anticipated site activation;
- clinical trial recruitment and participation timelines;
- audit provider capacity and reporting timeframes;
- the site's readiness to complete the audit; and
- the need to avoid completing the audit substantially earlier than required, so the site receives the maximum practical benefit from the two-year validity period.

The site must not independently commission, commence or pay for the funded audit without TROG's prior written approval.

TROG will pay the approved audit cost directly to the audit provider following receipt of a valid invoice.

7. Conditions of funding

Successful sites must:

- nominate an appropriate site contact to coordinate the audit;
- work with TROG and the audit provider to agree the audit schedule and selected machine-beam energy combination/s;
- provide the staff time, treatment machine access and other resources required to complete the audit;
- complete the audit in accordance with the audit provider's instructions and agreed timeframes;
- authorise the audit provider to provide TROG with the audit report;
- address any required corrective action before treating clinical trial participants, unless otherwise agreed by TROG;
- notify TROG of any replacement, relocation or material change to an audited treatment machine-energy combination that may affect the validity of the audit;
- remain responsible for maintaining current Level I audit evidence for any treatment machine used to treat clinical trial participants. Funding under this pilot does not extend to future audit renewal unless separately approved by TROG;
- provide TROG with reasonable information requested to support evaluation of the pilot program, including whether the funded audit contributed to clinical trial activation, use of the audited treatment machine-beam energy combination, participant recruitment and any barriers or benefits identified through the process; and
- promptly notify TROG if the clinical trial is materially delayed or will no longer open at the site, an approved machine-energy combination will no longer be used for the clinical trial, acceptable audit evidence becomes available through another arrangement, or alternative funding becomes available.

Funding approval does not constitute clinical trial site selection, site activation or confirmation that all clinical trial-specific credentialing and quality assurance requirements have been met.

TROG may withdraw, postpone or reallocate funding if:

- the audit is no longer required;
- the site is no longer progressing towards clinical trial participation;
- the audit cannot be completed within an appropriate timeframe;
- the site does not meet the conditions of funding;
- acceptable alternative audit evidence or funding becomes available; or
- the application contained materially inaccurate or incomplete information.

Where TROG or the audit provider has already incurred costs, TROG will determine whether the audit should proceed, be postponed or be cancelled.

8. Applications

Program information will be publicly available; however, applications are limited to eligible sites providing radiation therapy services who are actively progressing towards participation in an identified TROG clinical trial credentialing program.

Applications may be submitted during the pilot while funding remains available. TROG may pause or close applications once the available funding has been allocated.

Submit applications
Email: grants@trog.com.au
Subject: Site Enablement Grant Pilot Application – [site name]

9. Pilot review

TROG will review the pilot based on:

- demand for the program;
- sites and treatment machines supported;
- clinical trial activations enabled;
- patient access and geographic reach;
- use of the available funding;
- participant recruitment at supported sites; and
- the administrative and financial sustainability of the program.

Following the review, TROG may continue, amend, expand or discontinue the program.