

PEDSnet Committee Proposal Reviews – What to Expect

All investigators who collaborate with PEDSnet on a grant submission will have a working version of their study proposal undergo a comprehensive review for the purpose of strengthening the final application. The reviews are comprised of the following:

Technical review is conducted by the Data Coordinating Center in order to assess feasibility of utilizing PEDSnet data and resources to carry out the research. The DCC reviewer will complete a standardized form and make recommendations and provide suggestions to the study investigator regarding how to optimize the data available in PEDSnet to address the investigator’s research question. As a result, the investigator will have a better understanding of how the data is organized and expressed in the database and the challenges that may arise in defining study variables. If the study investigator wishes to conduct research that is beyond the scope of the data available in PEDSnet, a member of the DCC will notify the investigator as soon as possible. Otherwise, the technical review will make recommendations on how to strengthen the proposal, address the feasibility of all variables proposed in the research, and provide information regarding next steps for the investigator.

Scientific review is conducted by the [Methodology Advisory Panel](#) (MAP) for the purpose of assessing and strengthening study design and statistical approaches. Two members of the MAP are assigned per proposal and are chosen based on expertise most relevant to the study design and methods. Reviews are completed using a standardized template. The MAP requires 10 business days to complete and return their reviews to investigators. The PEDSnet Management Office (PMO) facilitates communication between the MAP and investigators.

Depending on the nature or extent of the critiques, the MAP may request a response from the Study PI for additional MAP review. Investigators may also be asked to notify the MAP if the research plan changes dramatically between MAP review and grant submission. Investigators preparing a response will do so in the form of either (1) a cover letter addressing individual critiques, or (2) an annotated version of the proposal after changes resulting from the critique have been integrated. The MAP will review the responses and make their final recommendations to the Executive Committee, who must approve of all PEDSnet study designations by a two-thirds majority.

See also: *MAP Proposal Review Investigator Guidelines*

Engagement plan review is conducted by the Engagement Committee. The Engagement Committee is comprised of a diverse group of patients, parents, and clinicians who were appointed by their institution to assist PEDSnet in overseeing all engagement work. The engagement work focuses on building broad awareness about the opportunity to participate in research along with opportunities to contribute. Individuals who express interest in research opportunities through PEDSnet will be provided with a thorough proposal review by the committee. The committee will provide detailed insight and recommendations for researchers to better engage with patients and families throughout the proposed research.