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## Revolutionizing Clinical Trial Supply Management with Signant SmartSignals® RTSM: Unveiling the Power of Free Picking



Nadine Maag

We're optimizing clinical research with a new free picking feature in [SmartSignals RTSM](#). This feature marks a significant step forward in supply management, providing flexibility and efficiency that could change the way clinical trials operate.

### What is free picking?

Free picking represents a change in how supplies are requested. Now, instead of specifying kit numbers, the RTSM system allows for requests by quantity, giving depots and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems the discretion to select kits.

This shift can help sponsors make their manufacturing and distribution more efficient, reducing surplus medication and waste. "Free picking can lower manufacturing costs and reduce overage and labeling expenses by enabling drug pooling across protocols and programs. This allows IP to be used across studies as needed and supports just-in-time manufacturing and labeling."

### Advantages of free picking

The free picking functionality offers several benefits:

- **Improved manufacturing and distribution:** By separating kit selection from the shipment requests, sponsors can optimize their processes more effectively.
- **Support for timely strategies:** The feature aids in the efficient use of Investigational Product (IP) and comparators, helping to extend utilization ahead of upcoming expiry events.
- **Enhanced risk and cost management:** The flexible framework helps reduce the risk of shortages and lowers costs related to excess inventory.



- **Focused inventory oversight:** Eliminates the need to monitor depot inventory in the study
- **Efficient supply pooling:** The feature enables depots and ERP systems to manage supplies more effectively across studies.
- **Just in time:** Reduced timelines, wastage and product shortages to ensure budgetary and protocol efficiencies.

## Digitalization and Compliance

Our commitment to digital solutions is clear with this new feature. Oli Cunningham, VP of clinical supply chain solutions at Signant, states, “We continue to collaborate with all of our customers to provide innovations that improve overall trial efficiency for all, while ensuring data integrity and compliance are of paramount importance.” This commitment ensures that our solutions are flexible and user-friendly.

## Integration with industry standards

The free picking feature integrates well with GS1 compliant APIs, ensuring efficient communication with ERP systems and distribution partners, and demonstrating our dedication to industry standards.

## Suitable for valuable medications

Free picking is particularly beneficial for trials with expensive medications or those with limited shelf lives, such as biologics. The just-in-time approach is crucial for these medications, ensuring minimal waste.

The free picking functionality in Signant SmartSignals® RTSM introduces a new level of flexibility and efficiency to clinical trial supply management. It helps sponsors manage risks, reduce costs, and minimize waste, while improving supply visibility and control.

As the industry evolves, these tools are likely to play an essential role in making clinical trials more efficient and successful.

**Let's explore how Signant's innovations can enhance your next project.**

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## About the author

**Nadine Maag** is a Senior Product Manager for Supplies Management Solutions team at Signant Health. She brings extensive experience in Clinical Research and IT, with expertise spanning Project Management, Client Management, Business Analysis, Program Management, and Languages/Localization.

Nadine's innovative and detail-oriented approach is grounded in her deep knowledge of Clinical IRT, an integral component of the clinical research process. Her work in this dynamic and multifaceted industry has equipped her with skills that are valuable and applicable across various sectors.

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