

“Variety and interest...”

Bio-economy Career Profile

Position: Senior Clinical Research Associate

Name: Brenda Nolf

Company: Organon Pharmaceuticals

Salary Range: CRA \$44,000 to \$63,000 per year / Senior CRA \$71,000 to \$82,000



What I do:

I'm the sponsor representative who recruits doctors to recruit patients for studies. I ensure doctors are compliant with following the protocol, ensuring safety for patients and reviewing the data to make sure it's accurate and correct.

Most of my time is spent on a computer, either e-mailing or doing data monitoring. The rest of my day is spent doing document review, communicating with the investigative study group, and making sure that all of the work is compliant with good clinical practice.

I travel between 75 and 90 per cent of the time.

What education and skills do candidates need for this position?

To work in this area, you usually need a science background. I'm a registered nurse by background, and I find it to be quite helpful.

In terms of skills, you need to be detail-oriented and have good communications skills. Relationship building is a big necessity when you're dealing with different sites. Being organized is also important. You also have to be knowledgeable about good clinical practices.

What are the best parts of your job?

The best thing about the job is that I have flexibility. Also, I'm always working on different projects, so once one study finishes, there's another one that overlaps. It gives you variety and interest.

The research is very interesting, and people tend to ask you questions about it when they find out what you do. For instance, we did a study on infertility, and you find out later that people you know have a related issue, and you can answer their questions about it. I had another friend mention something to me about having diabetes; he was sharing the fact he was interested in being part of a study.