UNILATERAL CLOSEOUT UPDATE

SPA has also been monitoring a new Department of Health and Human Services closeout policy for potential investigator and institutional impact. The new DHHS policy stipulates that if a sponsor is unable to undertake a “bilateral closeout” (i.e. closeout with the cooperation between the grantee and sponsor) within 180 days of a project end date, it will initiate “unilateral closeout.” A unilateral closeout is the process by which the funding agency closes an award without receipt of acceptable final closeout documents as required by the terms and conditions of an award, after making reasonable efforts to obtain them.

This policy has not yet been implemented by sponsors; we anticipate that it may impact SPA and investigator closeout activities when it is implemented. SPA will continue to monitor this topic and disseminate information as it is released.