

UTHealth Houston DMS Frequently Asked Questions

1. What changed under the updated NIH guidance?

NIH simplified the DMS Plan to increase efficiency and minimize applicant burden by:

- Replacing the former multi-narrative element structure with Yes/No attestations, short tables, and limited narrative where needed
- Removing the requirement for detailed procedural explanations

The updated notice NOT-OD-26-046 *only revises the required elements and format* of the DMS Plan, *not* the underlying policy or its expectations. Investigators are still required to:

- Submit a DMS Plan for applicable NIH-funded research
- Maximize appropriate sharing of scientific data
- Follow the approved plan and update it as appropriate over the life of the project
- Report on data management and sharing activities as part of annual reporting

2. When does the new DMS Plan format take effect?

The updated format (**draft; final pending OMB clearance**) is required for all NIH applications submitted for due dates on or after May 25, 2026.

3. Why did NIH revise the DMS Plan elements?

After reviewing more than 1,100 DMS Plans since 2023, NIH found that many plans:

- Exceeded recommended length
- Included unnecessary detail

The revised elements are intended to streamline plans while preserving policy intent and improve compliance monitoring.

4. Does the DMS Plan have to be followed exactly as submitted?

No. A DMS Plan reflects the proposed approach at the time of submission and must be updated as appropriate over the life of the project to reflect changes in data generation, sharing methods, or repositories.

5. What happened to “Element 6: Oversight of Data Management and Sharing”?

NIH removed Element 6 in the updated guidance. This means institutional oversight language is no longer included in the NIH DMS Plan itself. However, *UTHealth Houston is still responsible for institutional oversight, tracking, and compliance monitoring processes*, which operate outside of the NIH DMS Plan format.

6. Do I still need to budget for institutional DMS monitoring?

Yes. Although NIH removed Element 6, UTHealth Houston's institutional DMS monitoring requirement remains in effect, including the \$1,200 per grant year monitoring fee. This is an institutional requirement, not an NIH-imposed DMS Plan element.

7. Where can I get more help?

Several groups on campus will play a role in assisting UTHealth Houston researchers with their DMS plans. Please direct any questions you have to DMS@uth.tmc.edu