



REDCap Repeating Survey Data Collectin & Strategies

Collect recurring survey data in REDCap using repeating instruments, repeating events, Automated Survey Invitations, Alerts & Notifications, and the Survey Queue.

This guide will help you choose the right setup for your study and avoid common configuration issues.

About

Repeating surveys allow participants to complete the same survey multiple times, with each submission stored as a separate instance.

Survey Methods

Method	Best For	Email Required?
Repeat Survey Button	Multiple entries in one sitting	No
Automated Invitations (ASI)	Scheduled recurring surveys	Yes (or SMS/voice)
Alerts & Notifications	Conditional workflows	Yes
Survey Queue	Participant-driven access	No
Best practice: The most common setup is Repeating Instrument + Automated Survey Invitations.		

Decision Guide

Ask yourself:

- Do participants complete surveys on a schedule? → Use ASI
- Do surveys depend on conditions? → Use Alerts
- Do participants return anytime? → Use Survey Queue
- Do they enter multiple entries at once? → Repeat Survey Button

Repeating Instruments vs Events		
Feature	Repeating Instrument	Repeating Event
What repeats	Single survey	Entire visit
Complexity	Simple	More complex
Repeating Instruments: One form repeats multiple times Repeating Events: Entire visit/event repeats (longitudinal only) Tip: These methods can be combined. Choose based on workflow—not technical preference. Use Repeating Instruments whenever possible.		

Survey Queue

The Survey Queue provides a central page where participants can access available surveys. Used in long-running studies where participants return regularly.

Example Configurations

- **Daily Survey:** Repeating Instrument + ASI
- **Medication Log:** Repeating Instrument + Repeat Button
- **Conditional Follow-Up:** Alerts + [new-instance]
- **Clinical Visits:** Repeating Event

How Instances Work

- Participant completes survey → Instance #1
- Completes again → Instance #2
- Completes again → Instance #3

Think of each instance as a new row of data tied to the same participant.

Testing

- Create test records
- Submit multiple instances
- Verify invitations
- Confirm new instances are created
- Test participant experience

Best practice: Test the full workflow—not just the survey.

Exporting Data

- Each instance = one row
- Include repeat instance fields
- Long format is typically preferred

Troubleshooting

- Same instance opens: Missing [new-instance]
- Too many emails: Check ASI timing
- No new rows: Repeating not enabled
- No repeat button: Not enabled in settings

Common issue: Using repeating events when a repeating instrument would be simpler.

Configuration Checklist

- Choose repeating type
- Enable repeating

- Select delivery method
- Configure logic/timing
- Use [new-instance] if needed
- Test thoroughly
- Validate export structure