Business Justification for Phase 0 "No Cost PoC" - Lerner Research Institute

Executive Summary

Phase 0 serves as a strategic MVP to establish IBM Cloud's foundation for LRI's GPU needs, demonstrating platform viability while paving the way for comprehensive paid solutions (Phases 1-3) that will serve 250+ labs.

1. Strategic Justification: Pathway to Paid Implementation

Core Value Proposition

- **Validation of Cloud Bursting**: Addresses LRI's GPU capacity limitations through cloud-based solutions, ultimately targeting 240 research labs

- **Low-Friction Entry Point**: Minimal setup requirements enable quick adoption before significant budget commitments

- **Comparative Demonstration**: Running manual Phase 0 alongside automated Phase 1 pilot showcases the value of advanced features

2. Functional Justification: Manual Test Vehicle

Immediate Capabilities (MVP for 5 Researchers)

- **Resource Access**: Quick provisioning of GPU, Storage, and Virtual Server resources

- **Core Functions**:

    o   Manual provisioning of GPU-enabled VSIs in VPC

    o   Block Storage and Object Storage utilization

    o   Manual data transfer via SFTP/Aspera

    o   Complete lab-managed configuration including IAM, monitoring, and cost control

3. "No Cost PoC" Business Rationale

Key Justifications

- **Security Barrier Elimination**:

- Use of synthetic data removes PHI compliance requirements

- Accelerates proof of concept timeline

- **Financial Strategy**:

  - Leverages existing map funding/service credits with Cleveland Clinic IT

  - Removes immediate budgetary burden from LRI leadership

- **Risk Transfer**:

  - Labs assume full responsibility for resource management

  - Self-managed approach minimizes IBM and LRI centralized overhead

  - Complete lab ownership of cost management and data security

Implementation Approach

Phase 0 establishes a functional foundation that quickly addresses immediate needs while validating the comprehensive enterprise solution roadmap, converting a minimal manually managed pilot into an automated solution serving the entire research institute.