Clinical Research Governance Communique

Health Translation SA
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The Clinical Research Governance Steering Committee continues to work with the Project Team and the LHN/DHW Research Offices to progress the implementation of the 17 recommendations arising from the Review of Research Governance in the Department of Health and Wellbeing (SA) and related LHNs by Jim Birch.

Even though SA Health as a system has been focused on the COVID-19 impacts, progress with the recommendations continues to be made with support of the Minister and LHNs/SAAS/DASSA and DHW.

Significant Progress

- Research Management System preferred provider has been selected and full scoping of the system is being finalised.
- Establishment of KPIs relating to timeliness of ethics and site-specific approvals. KPIs currently being tested and will be incorporated into the 2020/21 LHN Service Agreements. Maximum timeframe for approval – 60 days for HREC and 30 days for SSA.
- Site Specific and Ethics assessments should now be commencing simultaneously.
- Expedited Review Process, for projects that are low and negligible risk, is implemented across some LHNs which means projects that do not require full ethics review can be considered on a weekly basis.
- Use of private sector ethics committees supported – awaiting SA Health Policy change to occur.
- Increased research activities in Country LHNs with participation in MRFF grant applications.
- Ministerial announcement regarding changes to the Healthcare Legislation to require private sector health services to submit their data enabling the provision of a comprehensive SA data set and enabling broader public health related research.

In Development

- Working towards the final contracting of the Research Management System by early July 2020. Aiming to have system partially implemented by October 2020 which will include the use of a single point of entry for all researchers with common application and information requirements.
- Funding arrangements for research offices undergoing further consideration.
- Training programs for researchers, research supervisors and for ethics committees and research office staff in development.
- Process for pre-consent for patients to agree to be contacted regarding research participation developed but further consultation required prior to implementation.

During the course of the work of the Steering Committee and the Project Team other matters relating to the success of our research processes have arisen. These include the role of the supervisor in supporting the development of a valid research question and complete research submission and how the clinical academic may be in a position to assist in the pursuit of quality research.

The Steering Committee is grateful for the assistance from many across all of SA Health, the University Sector and SAHMRI and particularly the support from the Minister for Health & Wellbeing. The Steering Committee resolved at its meeting on 2 June 2020 to continue to support the Birch Recommendation implementation process until December 2020.

Further information is available here.
If you have any questions or comments, please contact: enquiries@healthtranslationsa.org.au

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