
MEMORANDUM

To: Research Community

Copies to: Metro South Research

From: John Upham
Chair, Metro South Research

Contact No: 3443 8065

Subject: MS Research Activity

Dear Metro South Researchers,

From Monday 25th May, clinical research activities, including clinical trials may resume across Metro South Health, including patient recruitment, on-site patient follow-up and visitors for research related activities.

To assist with determining increasing research capacity across the organisation, please review the following key considerations:

Safety: Research Participant and Staff

Health screening of participants should occur before face-to-face interactions to reduce the risk of exposure to those who have been in contact with COVID-19.

- The safety of patients and staff remains the highest priority with social distancing and infection control measures being observed.
- All research participants are to be encouraged to call in advance of clinic appointments if they feel unwell or have any respiratory symptoms. The principal investigator will need to ensure appropriate follow up is arranged and may advise the patient to present to their GP or other facility for COVID-19 screening.
- Researchers should not be recruiting participants with flu-like symptoms unless it is part of a COVID-19 specific or a flu study that has appropriate approvals in place.
- Carefully consider the impact of public health directives on participants if they are in the high-risk categories for COVID-19 (e.g. participants may not wish to travel to appointments if they are in a high-risk category)
- If public health directives change, or if the research activity is not successful with COVID-19 limitations, it must be possible to immediately pause research activity
- Consider alternative methods to face-to-face activity are put in place via protocol amendment (e.g. telehealth, email, posting material etc.)
- Clinical Research Associates/Monitors can attend for monitoring visits on site as long as they are not symptomatic and have not travelled from interstate/overseas within the last 14 days in accordance with Queensland Department of Health advice.
- Remote monitoring visits might be possible using virtual mediums. Please contact IT for support in facilitating

Clinical Research Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the 18th May, Research activities can resume in the CRF. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Oncology services will continue in the CRF which may impact resource availability and flexibility regarding bookings may be required. – Gym bookings remain suspended at this stage and updates will be provided when available. • Please contact the CRF (CRF@health.qld.gov.au) to request bookings or contact the CRF Nurse Manager on 3176 8708 for further information.
MSH HREC and RGO Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst the Metro South HREC and RGO continue to work remotely, the office is functioning at full capacity and continues to review and approve new studies as well as process post approval submissions through ERM. • Priority review will remain for COVID-19 related submissions including new studies and amendments

This advice may be updated periodically, and researchers are encouraged to monitor Queensland Government and Metro South Health websites for further COVID-19 requirements

Yours sincerely,



Prof John Upham
Chair, Metro South Research
28/5/2020