



Metro South Research Weekly Update

Tuesday, 7 April 2020

To all MSH researchers and clinicians,

As the Health Service continues to manage the changing demand for our services, due to our response to COVID-19 activities such as research may be re-prioritised and, in some instances, placed on hold. Metro South Research intends to continue to support our researchers and clinicians during this time and would like to provide the following updates for your review and consideration.

Ethics and Governance Update

New Studies

- The MSH HREC will focus review of new studies on those related to the COVID-19 crisis, patient safety, or critical treatments.
- Whilst priority will be given to COVID-19 studies and COVID-19 related amendments to current studies, governance submissions and contract reviews will continue. However, please consider delaying commencement of study onsite due to current COVID-19 requirements. As no wet ink signatures are possible during this time, please ensure contracts are uploaded against the SSA in ERM.

Existing Studies

- Researchers need not withdraw any studies which have already commenced, instead existing research may be placed on hold. Researchers will be advised should this change in the future. If researchers can conduct their research given the current risk mitigation measures in place, then they should do so.
- Please don't make any hasty amendments until an informed assessment can be made of COVID-19's impact. Please note that MSH HREC resources are limited, as members will prioritise clinical care and COVID-19 related research.
- The PI of the study should conduct a risk assessment with regards to any changes related to patient safety and COVID-19 measures. The MSH HREC will conduct ethical and scientific review only and does not have current capacity to conduct a risk assessment.
- If the research is critical in enabling patient safety, review will be conducted (across Full, LNR and Negligible risk), however researchers should carefully consider completing a risk assessment on requirement for review during this time.

Review Timeframes

- Top priority will be given to new COVID-19 related research and amendments to existing studies related to COVID-19 Standard Risk Applications for review at MSH HREC 7 April 2020 meeting. Usual timeframes will be followed as closely as possible.
- NOTE: LNR - Please allow up to 3 weeks and Negligible Risk - Please allow up to 3 weeks.

Annual Reports

- Advice on Annual Report requirements will be provided next week.

PowerTrials

- The Research Compliance Officer is continuing to build newly approved Metro South Health studies and is minimising the researcher administration requirement during this time.
- Consented trial patients should continue to be enrolled into *PPManager* to allow for visibility of trial activity in the electronic medical record. This is assisting when rescheduling patients to tele/phone consults.
- If your study status has changed and you would like assistance with updating the milestones or managing patients on PowerTrials, please contact the Research Compliance Officer via email – MSH-PowerTrials@health.qld.gov.au

Metro South Health Research Support Scheme (RSS)

Metro South Research is aware that RSS grant holders are concerned about the consequences the COVID-19 event has in respect to the progress of funded research projects. Please be assured that funding is not in jeopardy and recipients will have continued support throughout this event.

Our advice currently is:

- A formal request for an extension due to COVID-19 related issues is not required.
- A blanket 6 month extension across RSS projects is being offered until it becomes clear how recipients have been individually impacted by the disruption as a result of COVID-19.
- Metro South Research will advise if further extensions due to COVID-19 will be provided.
- Following the conclusion of any COVID-19 extensions, Metro South Research will provide advice on requirements for updates, or requests for extension.
- Non-COVID-19-related requests for extension should be submitted in accordance with the Conditions of Award and will be considered on a case by case basis.

NHMRC Funding Calendar

The NHRMC is updating a list of all current and upcoming funding schemes which outlines the programs that are cancelled and extended. Click the [Funding schemes and calendar](#) for more information.

Please note the following in particular:

Ideas Grant Scheme	Extra time provided
Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies Scheme (CTCS)	Closing extended delayed
Investigator Grants 2020	Outcomes available soon

Relevant fellowships:

Queensland Health Nursing & Midwifery Research Fellowships	Round 6 Postponed Revised timeframes for Round 6 will be communicated later this year
Advance Queensland Industry Research Fellowships	Closing date 21 April
Queensland Advancing Clinical Research Fellowships	To schedule

Clinical Research Facility

- Essential clinical services from the PAH including the Day Surgery Treatment Unit Infusion Service and Ground Floor Oncology Day Care Service have been relocated to the CRF to increase capacity in the PAH.
- Non-critical research in the CRF has been suspended to accommodate these services with service continuing for Oncology trials only.
- Investigators affected by these changes can contact the CRF for assistance or advice on 3176 8708.

If you need help or support during this time please contact the Metro South Research team via email MSH-Research@health.qld.gov.au



Professor John Upham
Chair | Metro South Research
Metro South Health