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Dear colleagues

Dr Towers has been so kind to work through the TRREE online course for ethics training after having a query about which modules needs to be done as proof of ethics training.

**Each researcher who uses this online resource to complete the ethics training course should provide proof of completion of the following modules:**

- 1. Module 1 Introduction to research ethics**
- 2. Module 2.1 Research ethics evaluation**
- 3. Module 3.1 Informed consent**
- 4. National supplement for South Africa**

If a researcher performs clinical trials they should also complete **Module 3.2** (Good clinical practice) as well if they *have not completed* an accredited GCP course.

The website only provides certificates if you get more than 70% for each of the modules.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Minrie Greeff', written over a horizontal line.

Prof Minrie Greeff  
Ethics Office Head

Note: We have setup a breakdown of the content of the different sections in each of the modules for your convenience (see below).

## **Module 1.1 Introduction to research ethics**

### ***Part 1 - Historical overview***

- 1.1. Why research is important
- 1.2. The evolution of research ethics
  - 1.2.1 The evolution of research ethics – The emergence of rules specific to research
  - 1.2.2 The evolution of research ethics – The emergence of formal requirements for ethics evaluation
- 1.3. Why research ethics is important

### ***Part 2 - Core values and concepts of ethics for research involving humans***

- 2.1. Justifying the inclusion of humans in research: social value and scientific validity
- 2.2. Bringing about more good than harm
- 2.3. The interests of humans who participate in research must come before the interests of science and society
- 2.4. Voluntary participation: choosing to take on the risks of research
- 2.5. Fair distribution of the risks and potential benefits of research
- 2.6. Showing ongoing respect for persons
- 2.7. Upholding transparency during the research process

### ***Part 3. Overview of normative frameworks applicable to health research involving humans***

- 3.1. International instruments
- 3.2. National instruments
- 3.3. Institutional requirements

### ***Part 4. Introduction to research ethics evaluation***

- 4.1. What is research ethics evaluation
- 4.2. Why research ethics evaluation is important
- 4.3. Role and mandate of research ethics committees (REC)
- 4.4. Authority of RECs

## **Module 2 Research ethics evaluation**

### ***Part 1. Research Ethics Committees (RECs)***

- 1.1. Authority, role and mandate of RECs
- 1.2. Independence of ethics committees and committee members: a key feature
- 1.3. Composition and operational aspects
  - 1.3.1 Composition
  - 1.3.2. Properly constituted RECs and standard operating procedures
- 1.4. Ethical deliberation & decision-making

- 1.4.1. Ethical deliberation
- 1.4.2. Reaching a decision
- 1.4.3. Due process
- 1.5. Follow up of ongoing research
- 1.6. Accountability

## ***Part 2. Research and ethics evaluation***

- 2.1. What research requires ethics evaluation
- 2.2. Particular cases
- 2.3. What aspects get evaluated and why
- 2.4. Levels of evaluation
- 2.5. Ethics review of international collaborative research

## ***Part 3. Ethics evaluation of research projects***

- 3.1. Community participation or collaborative partnership
- 3.2. Social value: relevance of research to local health needs & expectations
- 3.3. Scientific validity
- 3.4. Qualifications of researchers
- 3.5. Participant selection process
- 3.6. Acceptable balance of risks and potential benefits
- 3.6. Acceptable balance of risks and potential benefits (continued)
- 3.7. Informed Consent
- 3.7. Informed Consent (continued)
- 3.8. Fair compensation / reimbursement
- 3.9. Privacy and confidentiality
- 3.10. Researcher conflicts of interest
- 3.11. Scientific integrity
- 3.12. Ongoing respect for research participants and collaborating communities

## ***Part 4. Documents to be reviewed***

### **Module 3.1 Informed consent**

#### ***Part 1. Informed consent: what it is and why it is important***

- 1.1. Definition
- 1.2. Elements
- 1.3. History
- 1.4. A Western imposition or a universal human right
- 1.5. Individual, community, family

## ***Part 2. The Informed Consent Process***

- 2.1. Invitation to participate in research
- 2.2. Provision of information
- 2.3. Answering questions
- 2.4. Avoiding coercion and undue inducement
- 2.5. The decision and next steps

## ***Part 3. When potential research participants are unable to give consent***

- 3.1. Minors, mentally or emotionally challenged adults, demented, comatose or unconscious patients, captive populations
- 3.2. When can these individuals be allowed to participate in research
- 3.3. Who can give consent for these individuals

## ***Part 4. Exceptions to Informed Consent Requirements***

- 4.1. Waiver of consent must be justified
- 4.2. Public health requirements
- 4.3. Research on human material or personal data
- 4.4. Additional safeguards
- 5.1. Understandable Language
- 5.2. What Must be Included
- 5.3. Extra information for certain types of research (e.g., vaccines, genetic studies, phase I trials)

## **Module 3.2 GCP**

Introduction to Clinical Research

### ***Part 1. Objectives of good clinical practice in clinical research***

#### ***Part 2. Preclinical activities***

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Preclinical toxicity studies

#### ***Part 3. Clinical trials***

- 3.1 Definitions
- 3.2 GCP in non-interventional clinical studies
- 3.3 Clinical Trial Principles
- 3.4 Clinical Trial Phases

#### ***Part 4. Avoid bias***

- 4.1 Principles

- 4.2 Blinding
- 4.3 Randomization
- 4.4 Stratification
- 4.5 Sample Size
- 4.6 Type I & II Errors
- 4.7 Power
- 4.8 P value

### ***Part 5. Basic clinical trial methodology: Trial designs***

Introduction to Good Clinical Practice

### ***Part 6. Historical background***

- 6.1 Historical Development of Reference Documents used in Clinical Trials
- 6.2 ICH Approach

### ***Part 7. GCP in clinical trials***

- 7.1 Applicability of GCP
- 7.2 GCP Principles
- 7.3 GCP Summary

### ***Part 8. RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (REC)/INDEPENDENT ETHICS COMMITTEE (IEC)/INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)***

- 8.1 Foreword
- 8.2 Reminder
- 8.3 REC Record Keeping: Variations in Rules and Laws

### ***Part 9. Investigator***

- 9.1 Be an Investigator
- 9.2 Investigational Site Organization
- 9.3 Pre-trial Processes
  - 9.3.5 Investigator Site File (ISF):
- 9.4 During the Trial
  - 9.4.2 Communication with the REC
  - 9.4.3 Informed Consent
  - 9.4.4 Investigational Medicinal Product
  - 9.4.5 Adverse Event and Serious Adverse Event
  - 9.4.6 Premature Discontinuation of the Trial
  - 9.4.7 Investigator Site File during the Course of the Trial

- 9.4.8 Investigator during Trial Summary
- 9.5 Post-Trial Processes
  - 9.5.3 Essential Documents and Archives
  - 9.5.4 Investigator Summary

**Part 10. Sponsor**

- 10.1 Sponsor Definition
- 10.2 Be a Sponsor
- 10.3 Contract Research Organization
- 10.4 Quality Assurance and Quality Control
  - 10.4.2 Monitoring
  - 10.4.3 Auditing
  - 10.4.4 Fraud and Misconduct
- 10.5 Pre-Trial Process
  - 10.5.1.1 Protocol
  - 10.5.1.2 Case report form
  - 10.5.1.3 Investigator's Brochure
  - 10.5.2 Data Management
  - 10.5.3 Investigational Medicinal Product
  - 10.5.4 Study Material
  - 10.5.5 Trial Master File (TMF)
- 10.6 Investigator Selection and Agreement
- 10.7 Multicentre Trial
- 10.8 Contract
- 10.9 Compensation
- 10.10 Cost of Treatment for Adverse Events
- 10.11 Insurance
- 10.12 Finances
- 10.13 Communication with the REC
- 10.14 Summary of Documents Needed to Start a Clinical Trial
- 10.15 Other Documents and Processes
- 10.16 During the Trial: Documents and Processes
- 10.17 Premature Discontinuation of the Trial
- 10.18 Sponsor During-Trial Summary
- 10.19 Post-Trial Processes

## **Part 11. Monitor**

- 11.1 Be a Monitor
- 11.2 Monitor's Responsibilities
- 11.3 Monitor's Tasks
  - 11.3.1 Investigational Site Selection
  - 11.3.2 At the Sponsor Site
  - 11.3.3 At the Investigational Site
    - 11.3.3.3 At the end of the trial
- 11.4 Monitor Summary

## **Part 12. Safety and Pharmacovigilance**

- 12.1 Safety Definition
- 12.1 Safety Definition
- 12.1 Safety Definition
- 12.2 Manufacturer's Responsibilities
- 12.3 Sponsor's Responsibilities
- 12.4 Investigator's Responsibilities
- 12.5 Independent Data Monitoring Committee Responsibilities
- 12.6 REC Responsibilities
- 12.7 Use of Dictionary
- 12.8 International collaboration
- 12.9 Pharmacovigilance in Europe
- 12.10 Pharmacovigilance in the United States

## **National supplement**

- 1. Type of research
  - 1.1. Biomedical research
  - 1.2. Research involving humans other than health research
  - 1.3. Health related social science research
- 2. Ethics review
  - 2.1. Research ethics committee
    - 2.1.1. Jurisdiction of the REC
    - 2.1.2. Independence of ethics review
    - 2.1.3. Composition of the REC
    - 2.1.4. Functioning of the REC
    - 2.1.5. Ongoing review of research
    - 2.1.6. Responsibility of the REC

## 2.2. Ethics review criteria

2.2.1. Social value of the research project

2.2.2. Scientific validity of the research project

2.2.3. Investigator's qualification

2.2.4. Compensation for damages

2.2.5. Selection of research participants

2.2.6. Informed consent

2.2.7. Risk to benefit ratio

2.2.8. Conflicts of interest

2.2.9. Protection of privacy & confidentiality

2.2.10. Ongoing respect for research participants