

# Procedure

## Metro North HHS - wide

Effective from: Nov 2017  
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## Research: Responsible Reporting

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### Background

In accordance with the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* (the Code), researchers within Metro North Hospital and Health Service (Metro North HHS) undertake to responsibly communicate and disseminate the outcomes of all research undertaken within its facilities to contribute to the collective knowledge base and to extract maximum benefit from the research activity for the health service and the academic community.

The overarching purpose of research is to generate new knowledge that leads to benefits for effective and efficient delivery of quality patient care. Those who undertake research within the HHS have a responsibility to undertake informed, well designed and executed research that addresses knowledge gaps and generates outcomes that have potential to be translated into health care advances. There is an obligation to publish research outcomes and disseminate results of research to a wide range of relevant audiences including academic peers, the health sector and the community.

It is acknowledged that in some circumstances, barriers to reporting research outcomes arise. Restrictions may be placed on the scope, authority and timing of publication of some industry and pharmaceutical research outcomes due to considerations relating to intellectual property value and commercial interests in externally sponsored clinical trials.

Current journal practices favour publication of positive and novel research outcomes which can create barriers to publication of research studies that do not achieve significance in the primary outcome envisaged in the research design. Motivation to report outcomes of studies that do not proceed to plan or

deliver negative or inconclusive results may be reduced for various reasons (time pressures, new priorities, no benefit to reputation, low impact publication opportunities). Despite these issues, reporting of negative or inconclusive study outcomes can inform research design issues or practical factors that influence capacity to complete a study protocol enabling experiential learning by researchers and by others. Such reporting of negative or inconclusive results or uncompleted studies serves to prevent wastage of research resources and potentially re-investment by others in potentially futile research applying similar methodologies within comparable contexts.

## Purpose and Intent

This procedure outlines the principles and processes for responsible and complete reporting of all research undertaken by Metro North HHS researchers.

## Scope and Target Audience

This procedure applies to all Metro North HHS employees, whether permanent, temporary or casual, who undertake research within Metro North HHS.

This procedure is also relevant to all students, honorary appointments, collaborators and visitors who undertake research projects or programs within Metro North HHS.

## Principles

- **Establishing the evidence base:** responsible reporting of research is essential to generate a complete knowledge base from which current evidence can be systematically reviewed, evaluated and synthesised as a platform for developing healthcare interventions.
- **Underpinning knowledge transfer:** responsible reporting of research outcomes underpins translation of research results into evidence-based practice.
- **Quality design and analysis:** application of good research design, project management and data analysis plans will enhance the value of research study outcomes.
- **Extracting value:** responsible reporting of quality research outcomes increases the return on investment in research. Reporting and lodgement of primary datasets with metadata in curated online data repositories enables reuse of research data for additional purposes.
- **Integrity and reproducibility:** responsible reporting of research methodologies and outcomes enhances capacity for reproducibility of research, demonstrates scientific quality and integrity and enables validation of research outcomes by others.
- **Collaboration and partnership:** the principles of responsible reporting require careful consideration in the setting of research collaboration agreements and agreements with sponsors of studies.

## Process

- Metro North HHS will provide training and education resources to support researcher competency in quality use of appropriate research designs, research processes, data management and analysis protocols.
- Metro North HHS researchers will utilise appropriate research design, project management and data analysis methodologies to ensure quality research study outcomes.
  - Please refer to the Metro North HHS [Research Education](#) website for details of the Research Education Calendar
- Metro North HHS will provide access during all stages of research; from design, execution, analysis and reporting, to biostatisticians to ensure appropriate use of statistical methodologies.

- Metro North HHS researchers are eligible for biostatistics support, through the [QIMR Statistical Support](#) arrangement.
- Metro North HHS research projects will address important knowledge gaps identified through systematic review of existing research evidence and activity repositories.
  - Researchers will consult Clinical Trial Registries and the PROSPERO repository for systematic review protocols.
  - Researchers will register their research activities on appropriate public access registries, such as Clinical Trial Registries and/or the Queensland Health Database of Research Activity (DORA).
  - Metro North HHS Researchers will access the advanced Librarian services available across the HHS for literature and research skills support.
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- Research studies undertaken within Metro North HHS will be completed, analysed and submitted for publication in scientific and medical journals or online research repositories, considering research collaboration agreements that are in place for the study.
- Research methodologies, research results and limitations will be described in appropriate and sufficient detail to enable the study to be repeated by other researchers skilled in the field.
- Metro North HHS researchers who review or edit research reports adhere to rigorous and fair assessment of research articles submitted for publication by other researchers.

## Legislation and other authority

*Hospital and Health Boards Act (Qld)*

*Australian Research Council Act 2001 (Cth)*

*Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987 (Cth)*

*National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992*

*Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*

*Health Services Act 1991 (Cth)*

*Information and Privacy Act 2009*

*Public Health Act 2005*

*Public Service Act 2008*

*Public Sector Ethics Act 1994 (QLD)*

*Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995 (QLD)*

*Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (QLD)*

## References and Benchmarking

Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2007:

National Statement of Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007 (updated 2015)

Australian Research Council Funding Rules

Commonwealth Grant Rule and Guidelines 2014

## Related Documents

Policy (POL: 001) Research Policy

Procedure (PROC: 001) Research: Monitoring

Procedure (PROC: 002) Research: Financial Management

Procedure (PROC: 003) Research: Conflict of Interest

Procedure (PROC: 004) Research: Intellectual Property

Procedure (PROC: 005) Research: Authorship

Procedure (PROC: 006) Research: Responsible Reporting

Procedure (PROC: 007) Research: Honorary Appointments, Research Students and Visitors

Procedure (PROC: 008) Research: Partnership and Collaboration

Procedure (PROC: 009) Research: Gender Equity

Procedure (PROC: 012) Research: Complaints and breaches of the Code

Metro North HHS Research Strategy 2017-2022

## Relevant Standards

ACHS EQUIP National Standards – Standard 15: Corporate Systems and Safety

## Appendix 1- Definition of terms

Term	Definition
Authorship	Authorship refers to the attribution of contributors to academic publications. Authorship must be determined based on substantial scholarly contributions.
Code, the	The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007) This guides institutions and researchers in responsible research practices and promotes integrity in research. It shows how to manage breaches of the Code and allegations of research misconduct, how to manage research data and materials, how to publish and disseminate research findings, including proper attribution of authorship, how to conduct effective peer review and how to manage conflicts of interest. It also explains the responsibilities and rights of researchers if they witness research misconduct.
Ethics	The concepts of right and wrong, justice and injustice, virtue and vice, good and bad, and activities to which these concepts apply.
Intellectual Property (IP)	All rights in Australia or any other jurisdiction resulting from intellectual activity in the medical, industrial, scientific, artistic and literary fields, including any rights in, or rights to registration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works under the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth)</li> <li>• Designs under the Designs Act 2005 (Cth)</li> <li>• Inventions under the Patent Act 1990 (Cth)</li> <li>• Trade Marks under the Trade Marks Act 1995 (Cth)</li> </ul>

Term	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circuit layouts or integrated circuits under the Circuit Layouts Act 1989 (Cth)</li> <li>• Confidential information at common law and equity.</li> </ul>
Metro North HHS	Metro North Hospital and Health Service
National Statement, the	<p>The National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007) Revised 2009. A guidance document developed by the NHMRC, the Australian Research Council and the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee to provide guidelines for researchers, HRECs and others conducting ethical review of research. It also states institutions' responsibilities for the quality, safety and ethical acceptability of research that they sponsor or permit to be carried out under their auspices.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/e72">http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/e72</a></p>
Patient	A person who is a subject of research or whose data is collected, used or disclosed in the course of research.
Peer Review	The impartial and independent assessment of research by others working in the same or a related field.
Research	<p>The original investigation undertaken to gain knowledge, understanding and insight.</p> <p>The creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies, inventions and understandings.</p> <p>This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it is new and creative.</p>
Research Ethics	Ethics as it applies to research with particular consideration of research risks and benefits as well as protection of the rights and safety of the community and research participants.
Research Student	<p>An individual enrolled in a course of study with a recognised research or teaching institution and may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students enrolled in honours, research masters or doctoral program, or any substantial postgraduate research project or dissertation with a University.</li> <li>• Volunteer medical, nursing or allied health students gaining research experience.</li> </ul>
Researcher	Person or persons who conducts research, including academics, research trainees, Honours and Higher Degree Research students and professional staff.

## Document History

<b>Custodian</b>	Executive Director, Research Metro North HHS
<b>Risk rating</b>	Low <a href="#">MNHHS Risk Management Procedure</a>
<b>Compliance evaluation and audit</b>	Summary data of research outputs will be reported to the Executive Director, Research Metro North HHS
<b>Replaces Document/s</b>	New document
<b>Document replaced</b>	N/A
<b>Key stakeholders</b>	Executive Director, Operations Executive Directors, Clinical Directorates HREC Chair & Coordinator, RBWH & TPCH Research Governance Officers Director, Research (Clinical Directorates) Executive Director (Metro North): Clinical Services, Medical Services, Nursing and Midwifery Services, Allied Health Chief Finance Officer (Financial Control, Information Technology, Legal, Human Resources, Communications, Engagement)
<b>Marketing Strategy</b>	Marketing through MNHHS Research website, newsletter and regular email to all line managers. Notification through Safety and Quality Units to key stakeholders.
<b>Key words</b>	Responsible Reporting, Research, Publication

## AUTHORISATION

Signature

Date

**Executive Director, Research Metro North HHS**

The signed version is retained by the relevant Safety and Quality area, Metro North Hospital and Health Service.