

RESEARCH ETHICS & GOVERNANCE UPDATE

RBWH Research Services will be providing regular updates to RBWH researchers on processes, changes, etc., as well as providing information which may assist in submitting applications to the HREC.

New Research Governance Manager

Rebekah Steele is our new Research Governance Manager who is an experienced researcher and health practitioner. This new role has a professional and operational reporting line to the Executive Director Research, RBWH and professional reporting to the Executive Director Research, MNHHS. Rebekah obtained her PhD in public health at Central Queensland University and completed a Career Development Fellowship with the Medical Research Council, Cambridge, UK. Rebekah joins us from Metro South where she led the clinical governance and quality agenda across oral health services for the last three years. Prior to that, Rebekah held a variety of leadership roles across the Department of Health, including Cancer Screenings Services, Medicines Regulation and Quality and the Healthcare Legislation and Regulation Team.



Changes to mandatory Application Form for LNR Applications & Quality Assurance/ Quality Improvement Projects

With immediate effect, all new applications, i.e. low or negligible risk (LNR) studies or greater than low risk studies, should be submitted to the RBWH HREC on the HREA Form, via ERM (<https://au.forms.ethicalreviewmanager.com/>).

It is hoped that this approach will eventually be adopted throughout Queensland in an effort to standardise application requirements. The RBWH HREC is an early adopter of this requirement.

The Qld Health LNR Form should now only be used for submission of non-research projects which are deemed to be exempt from HREC review, i.e. Quality Assurance / Audit projects, Service Evaluations and Case Reports.

Changes to Annual HREC Research Reporting Requirements

Following a consultation looking at ways in which research may be facilitated, Metro North Hospital and Health Service is introducing a new process relating to the submission of Annual HREC Reports and the expiry dates for approved studies. This will see a single date for the submission of all annual reports and removal of the need to seek an extension to HREC approval for projects, as long as a complete annual report is provided by the due date.

As of 1 January 2020, the Principal Investigator will be required to report to the respective HREC annually **by 30 April in that year** in the format specified from time to time in the Metro North Ethics and Governance webpage at: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/metronorth/research/ethics-governance/post-approval-reporting/default.asp>

Continuation of Ethical approval will now be contingent upon the receipt of a complete Annual Report, as well as meeting the requirements as set out in the original approval letter.

Submission dates for Annual Reports will be as follows:

Report due date	Submission date
1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019	Submit by due date
1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020	Submit by 30 April 2020
1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021	Submit by 30 April 2021

For further information or clarification regarding the Annual Reporting process, please contact the HREC Coordinators at either:

RBWH: RBWH-Ethics@health.qld.gov.au Ph: 07 3646 5490

TPCH: ResearchTPCH@health.qld.gov.au Ph: 07 3139 4500