Background Wide social disparities and weak health care systems in Africa make timely development of essential medicines, vaccines, medical technologies in and for Africa a desperate need, given the burden of diseases facing the continent. We estimate that it takes, on average, 1.5 years to get research ethics clearance in many African institutions for complex research proposals needed to deal with disease and solutions. Such delay comes with potentially high human costs. The need for Research Ethics Committees (RECs) to promptly and competently review protocols is therefore critical. Competent and efficiently RECs can save human lives, reduce costs and ultimately contribute to scientific development.

Methods Research for Health and Innovation Organiser (RHInnO Ethics) is both an information management system and an expert-decision support system for individual RECs that is currently installed in 29 RECs in 8 African countries. It enables online, better quality, efficient and standardised reviews that can reduce review time in complex, multicentre trials by 12 months or more.

Results What progress has been achieved in the process of implementing RHlnnO Ethics since its inception in 2013? While training courses (long and short) have been considered as the mainstay of research ethics capacity building for decades, the development of this software-as-a-service platform has led to a more substantial understanding of how we can both accelerate and enhance the quality of ethics review of health research. We present experiences of our end users on how RHInnO Ethics contributes in enhancing the quality and efficiency of ethics review process.

Conclusions Health research ethics review needs to go beyond training. We also present new functionalities in RHInnO Ethics version 2.0, including EthiCALL (RECs connecting with other RECs worldwide), EthiXPERT (RECs updates on research ethics developments) as well as Invoicing, REC accreditation and pharmacovigilance functionalities that promise to revolutionise the research ethics review process in Africa and beyond.
RESEARCH ETHICS CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE NEXT DECADE – 'BEYOND TRAINING' – RHINNO ETHICS AS MODEL TO IMPROVE AND ACCELERATE ETHICS REVIEW OF HEALTH RESEARCH

Francis Kombe, Jacintha Toohey and Carel Ijsselmuident

BMJ Glob Health 2017 2: A55
doi: 10.1136/bmjgh-2016-000260.147

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://gh.bmj.com/content/2/Suppl_2/A55.2

These include:

Open Access
This is an Open Access article distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt, build upon this work non-commercially, and license their derivative works on different terms, provided the original work is properly cited and the use is non-commercial. See: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/

Email alerting service
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Topic Collections
Articles on similar topics can be found in the following collections

Open access (474)

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/