

OA-003 **IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF AFRICAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES AND STANDARDISING ETHICS REVIEW PROCESSES THROUGH AN AUTOMATED REVIEW PLATFORM**

Boitumelo Mokgatla,¹ Prince Bahati,² Carel Ijsselmuiden³. ¹IAVI, South Africa; ²IAVI, Kenya; ³COHRED, Switzerland

10.1136/bmjgh-2016-000260.12

Background The sheer amount of research being conducted in Africa, the under-resourced research ethics committees (RECs), and the lack of modern review technologies has resulted in unprecedented review timelines – with an estimated 1.5 years to get ethical clearance in many African countries. The Research for Health Innovation Organiser (RHInnO), a cloud-based ethics review platform, has ushered a new frontier of digital ethics review in Africa. It facilitates and manages the entire ethics review process. RHInnO ethics integration is estimated to reduce the review time by 12 months. In 2015, RHInnO ethics was used by 25 RECs in 8 African countries. We evaluated its impact on efficiency, data security and cost.

Methods Qualitative and quantitative data was collected using an online questionnaire administered to REC administrators/ chairpersons in user countries.

Results Responses were received from 60% of RECs using RHInnO ethics. Reported areas of high impact (81%-100% of respondents) included: improved protocol submission and distribution process, improved quality of communication between RECs and researchers, improved standardisation of review process and improved data security. Reported areas of medium impact (60%-80% of respondents) included reduced REC administrator's workload and reduced RECs' administrative costs. Improved reviews of multicentre trials were reported as a low impact area by over 60% of respondents. Respondents (20%) who used RHInnO ethics for more than 2 years reported 57% reduction in review time while those who used RHInnO ethics for less than a year, (80%) reported it is too early to see the impact on reduction of review timelines.

Conclusions RHInnO ethics had high impact on data security, submission process, communication, standardisation and cost reduction. However, a long-term evaluation approach is needed to determine impact on review timelines. Integration of new monitoring and evaluation (M&E) indicators on efficiency into the platform would improve RECs capacity to conduct long-term impact analysis.



IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF AFRICAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES AND STANDARDISING ETHICS REVIEW PROCESSES THROUGH AN AUTOMATED REVIEW PLATFORM

Boitumelo Mokgatla, Prince Bahati and Carel Ijsselmuiden

BMJ Glob Health 2017 2: A6
doi: 10.1136/bmjgh-2016-000260.12

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://gh.bmj.com/content/2/Suppl_2/A6.2

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/>