



GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH RELATED TO COVID-19

The current demands on the North-Central Regional Health Authority (NCRHA) with respect to research ethics, has necessitated that candidates submitting research protocols to the RHA should stringently adhere to the following guidelines:

COVID-19 RELATED RESEARCH

1. Proposals should clearly justify the need for undertaking research in such patients. These include clinical presentation, management interventions including investigations and imaging as well as treatment protocols, outcomes which can be beneficial to future management of patients.
2. Protected health information of patients must be carefully excluded
3. Any clinical trials on such patient will be thoroughly scrutinized for its risks versus benefits and proposals which cannot establish benefits outweighing the risks will not be approved
4. Approval from Ethics Committee for a research proposal does not guarantee access to certain quarantine locations within the RHA – access is dependent upon many other factors including (but not limited to) availability of PPE, etc.

CASE REPORTS AND CASE SERIES

Case Reports and Case Series can be a conceptualized structured description of patients' history with a disease:

1. Informed Consent should be obtained for Case Reports involving one or two patients (If the patient is not available, the consent should be obtained from the family or guardian)
2. Personal identifiers must be removed from all reports (e.g. registration number, date of birth, initials, name or in some cases admission and discharge dates)
3. When reporting on small communities, extreme caution should be undertaken to avoid identifiable information such as age (if this can pin-point to a certain individual in a community), family, history and job status