

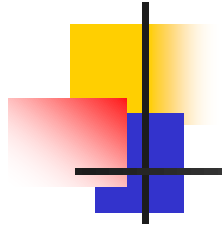


Ontario Colleges Multi-college ethics review process

Pulling together:
Making research and research ethics
better in the Ontario college system

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The Multi-college Ethics Working Group







Our goal: a multi-college ethics review process

Only for minimal risk, multi-college studies

Only for REBs that want to participate



Support for a multi-college ethics review process

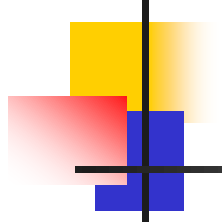
The working group developed a process with input and support from the Secretariat

Full support confirmed from HAR (Nov 2015)

Process was pilot tested and evaluated

Plan to launch: September 2016, after meeting with all REB Chairs

The Multi-college ethics process:





The Expert Panel: Who are they?

Five to seven REB Chairs who volunteer to sit on the Expert panel and review multi-college applications for two years; one acts as Lead

Members must have a minimum of two years' REB review experience

The Lead's role: receive the ethics application referrals from the referral college, screen them, then send out a call for reviewers from the panel (each review requires three reviewers)



The expert panel process

The panel members review within 10 working days using the multi-college .2252 1.8 re2saoc6f



Pilot test done

The process was tested with several colleges

Evaluated from all perspectives: researchers, the REB Chairs /Coordinators, the Expert Panel members and Directors/VPs Applied Research. We asked:

What were the challenges? Benefits/advantages?

How long did the reviews take?

What local college and cross system supports are needed to sustain the process?

Data collection involved interviews, surveys and process metrics



Results

Five applications sent to the expert panel (EP) during the six month project

Average review time by the EP was 9 days.

The EP largely agreed on issues related to ethics and panel members reported that the referral, review and recommendation process functioned well.

Researchers: a positive experience with the EP

Mixed results and researcher dissatisfaction with the college REB process



Results from the college REB reviews

21 reviews: large variation in review time:
Seven (33.3%) were reviewed in 0 to 2 days.
Seven (33.3%) reviewed in 3 to 8 days however,



Agreement with HAR to go forward (Nov 2015)

HAR ethics working group will:

Share education materials, and procedure documents with the REBs, explaining the multi-college process, hold webinars/info sessions

Assemble and prepare the expert panel and roll out the process to any interested college in Sept 2016

HAR members will:

Communicate their support for the procedure change and ongoing professional development for REB members at their college

Provide support (one hour/week) for an REB coordinator to handle filing, communication with the researcher. Responsibility for that support will rotate colleges every two years



Let's talk!

What questions do you have?

What are your thoughts/concerns?

What other information/support do you need to adopt this procedure?

Suggestions?



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