Abstract Title: Addressing barriers in Clinical Research – Monash Partners ReForm (Research Facilitation platform)

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Background

Collaboration between stakeholders – clinicians, academia, government, pharma, regulators – is critical for clinical research. In the absence of a collaborative platform, most research projects operate in small unit silos, resulting in duplication, wastage and inefficiency. Advanced Health Research and Translation Centres (AHRTCs) are well positioned to address systems level challenges. Here we outline progress under the Monash Partners ReForm platform, leveraging synergies to improve efficiencies, accelerate pace and scale of clinical research and expedite access to new treatments.

Objectives

The platform aims to enable and support clinical research by converging and synthesising feedback, addressing barriers and providing solutions to system problems across the partner organisations.

Method

We established two partnership wide working groups that bring together researchers, and ethics and governance managers, to draw on their processes, systems and experience: a multi-disciplinary, clinical research advisory committee and an ethics and governance working group. A phased approach included the development of an affordable, quality research education and training program, at scale, and a special project to streamline ethics and research governance approval processes across partner organisations.

Results

A key outcomes include the delivery of an accredited GCP training program to more than 1000 researchers.

Mutual acceptance of ethics approval has been agreed with centralisation of ethics review services standardisation of governance forms and approval processes across the partnership

Development of a co-enrolment policy and establishment of a “drug trial safety officer bank” with capability for investigator-initiated trials.

Development of “method centre” to support end to end clinical trial activities by linking expertise embedded within partner organisations.