



Philippine Health Research
Ethics Board

PHILIPPINE HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD

Philippine National Health Research System
c/o Philippine Council for Health Research and Development
Department of Science and Technology

PHREB Resolution No. **20-001**

Series of 2020

April 13, 2020

RESOLUTION

“PHREB Resolution on the Review of Research Proposals on COVID-19”

submitted ad referendum on 13 April 2020

Mindful of the urgent nature of scientific studies that are being conducted – and need to be conducted – in response to the current COVID-19 Pandemic;

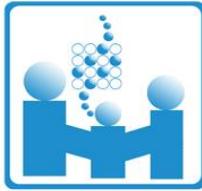
Recognizing the limitations on human movement arising from the imposition of an Enhanced Community Quarantine in many parts of the country; and

Considering the steps that need to be taken to minimize risks to the health and safety of members and administrative staff of Research Ethics Committees (RECs) that have to review health and health-related research;

The Philippine Health Research Ethics Board (PHREB), in consultation with its Committee on Standards and Accreditation (CSA), hereby resolves:

1. To authorize all RECs regardless of the level of accreditation to suspend the application of pertinent provisions of their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to the extent necessary to enable them to conduct online meetings to review research protocols and for other purposes, provided:
 - a. that only RECs with level 3 accreditation may review and approve clinical trial protocols;
 - b. that deviation from the RECs' SOPs is limited primarily to the REC Members' online presence instead of physical presence and to related provisions such as the acceptance of electronic rather than hardcopy documents;
 - c. that deviations and proceedings will be properly recorded in the minutes of meetings;
 - d. that RECs give due consideration to the risks to privacy and confidentiality arising from the conduct of online meetings and the electronic transmission of documents;
 - e. that RECs will promptly report to PHREB when such meetings are conducted and what challenges are encountered;
 - f. that RECs consider immediate amendments to their SOPs to address the issues that are now being encountered because of the national health emergency and in anticipation of similar future contingencies; and
 - g. that this authorization shall expire on 30 June 2020 unless extended by the PHREB.

2. To urge RECs to consider how they are going to deal with pressing issues such as the review of experimental and off label drugs, new devices, equipment, and diagnostic tests, and protocol amendments, deviations, violations and early terminations relative to urgent clinical trials with a view to protecting the safety and welfare of the participants as well as the integrity of data.



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The Philippine Health Research Ethics Board hereby approves and promulgates this resolution.

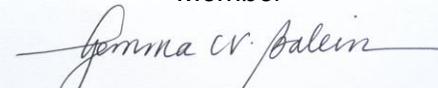
ADOPTED by the **Philippine Health Research Ethics Board by Referendum**, on the 13th day of April 2020 with the following members voting for approval:

PHILIPPINE HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD


SONIA E. BONGALA, MD
Member


RICARDO M. MANALASTAS, JR., MD
Member


ALBERTO T. MUYOT, LLM
Member


GEMMA N. BALEIN, DDM
Member

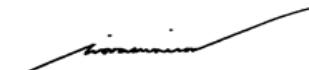

CLEMEN C. AQUINO, PhD
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Chair