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Skip to main content International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) The mission of the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform is to ensure that a complete view of research is accessible to all those involved in health care decision making. This will improve research transparency and will ultimately strengthen the validity and value of the scientific evidence base.The registration of all interventional trials is a scientific, ethical and moral responsibility.Note:You cannot register a trial with WHO. The WHO ICTRP is not a clinical trials registry. In order to register a trial, please contact one of the Primary registries. For the purposes of registration, a clinical trial is any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes. Clinical trials may also be referred to as interventional trials. Interventions include but are not restricted to drugs, cells and other biological products, surgical procedures, radiologic procedures, devices, behavioural treatments, process-of-care changes, preventive care, etc. This definition includesPhase I to Phase IV trials. WHO regards trial registration as the publication of an internationally-agreed set of informationabout the design, conduct and administration of clinical trials. These details are published on a publicly-accessible website managed by a registry conforming toWHO standards. In a global first, Ugandas Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners today launched a first-ever clinical efficacy trial for a vaccine from Ebola from the Sudan species of the virus, and at an unprecedented speed for a randomized vaccine trial, in an emergency. This is the first trial to assess the clinical efficacy of a vaccine against Ebola Sudan virus disease. IAVI, the provider of the vaccine, conducted trials for safety and immunogenicity. It is also the first clinical trial of the vaccine during an outbreak.The principal investigatorsfrom Makerere University and the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), with support from WHO and other partners, have worked tirelessly to get the trial ready in 4 days since the outbreak was confirmed on 30 January. It is the first trial to assess the clinical efficacy of a vaccine against Ebola disease due to Sudan virus. The speed was achieved through advanced research preparedness, while ensuring full compliance with national and international regulatory and ethical requirements. The candidate vaccine was donated by IAVI, with financial support from WHO, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Canadas International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and the European Commission's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) and support from the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).This is a critical achievement towards better pandemic preparedness, and saving lives when outbreaks occur, said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHOs Director-General. This is possible because of the dedication of Ugandas health workers, the involvement of communities, the Ministry of Health of Uganda, Makerere University and UVRI, and research efforts led by WHO involving hundreds of scientists through our research and development Filoviruses network. We thank our partners for their dedication and cooperation, from IAVI for donating the vaccine, to CEPI, EU HERA and Canadas IDRC for funding, and Africa CDC for further support. This massive achievement would simply not be possible without them.In 2022, during the previous outbreak of Ebola disease (also from the Sudan species of the virus) in Uganda, a randomized protocol for candidate vaccines was developed. Principal investigators were designated under the leadership of the Minister of Health, and teams were trained to allow such a trial to take place during an active outbreak. The randomized vaccine trial to assess the recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus (rVSV) candidate vaccine was launchedat a ceremony in Kampala today by the Minister of Health of Uganda. WHO is co-sponsoring the trial. WHO was represented by Dr Mike Ryan, Executive Director of WHOs Health Emergencies Programme and Deputy Director-General, and the WHO representative to Uganda Dr Kasonde Mwinga, along with other colleagues.Three vaccination rings were defined today. The first ring involves about 40 contacts and contacts of contacts of the first reported and confirmed case, a health worker who has died. Although several promising candidate medical countermeasures are progressing through clinical development, as of now, there is no licensed vaccine available to effectively combat a potential future outbreak of Ebola disease from the Sudan species of the virus. Licensed vaccines exist only for the disease caused by Ebola virus, formerly known as Zare ebolavirus. Likewise for treatments, approved treatments are only available for Ebola virus. The vaccine for the trial was recommended by the independent WHO candidate vaccine prioritization working group. If the candidate vaccine is effective, it can contribute to controlling this outbreak and generate data for vaccine licensure. In 2022, the research teams were trained in good clinical practice (GCP) and standard operating procedures for such trials. They completed refresher training in recent days. WHO colleagues experienced in trials and in ring vaccination arrived in Uganda over the weekend to support the trial implementation and GCP compliance.The vaccine doses were pre-positioned in the country. WHO worked with the principal investigators and national authorities and the vaccine developer to review cold chain documentation and ensure the doses were stored correctly over the previous years. As part of the signed agreement with the Ministry of Health, WHO has a signed agreement with IAVI for additional doses of the candidate vaccine to be made available shortly. Notes to editorsThe trial is a ring vaccination cluster randomized trial designed to assess the effect of one single, promptly given, dose of the candidate vaccine whose safety and immunogenicity have already been demonstrated in Phase 1, in protecting recent contacts and contacts of contacts of a newly confirmed case of Sudan virus disease (SVD).Ring vaccination consists of the targeted vaccination of the recent contacts of an index case.It might protect the individual vaccinated or help create a small buffer zone of immunizedpeople that could limit propagation of the infection. The ring vaccination trial involves a population at increased risk of infection as they have recently been in contact with a case of SVD, so it may well provide useful information about the protection of such case-contacts quickly, within just a few months. The same study design was used in the Ebola a suffit trial in Guinea in 2015 by WHO and the Ministry of Health of Guinea to evaluate a now-licensed vaccine against a different species of ebolavirus.On 4 February 2025, a correction was made to the opening sentence of this news release as noted below.The sentence in the original news release read:In a global first, Ugandas Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners today launched a first ever vaccine trial for Ebola from the Sudan species of the virus, and at an unprecedented speed for a randomized vaccine trial in an emergency.This was changed to:In a global first, Ugandas Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners today launched a first-ever clinical efficacy trial for a vaccine from Ebola from the Sudan species of the virus, and at an unprecedented speed for a randomized vaccine trial, in an emergency. This is the first trial to assess the clinical efficacy of a vaccine against Ebola Sudan virus disease. IAVI, the provider of the vaccine, conducted trials for safety and immunogenicity. It is also the first clinical trial of the vaccine during an outbreak. Skip to main content - Select language - franais espaol portugus This document responds to requests by the World Health Assembly to the Director-General in resolution WHA75.8 (2022) on strengthening clinical trials to provide high-quality evidence on health interventions and to improve research quality and coordination to identify and propose best practices and other measures to strengthen the global clinical trial ecosystem and to review existing guidance and develop new guidance as needed on best practices for clinical trials. This guidance updates and adapts the previous work of the World Health Organization (WHO) on research capacity for the context of well-designed and well-implemented clinical trials as framed in resolution WHA75.8 (2022). It aims to enhance clinical research efficiency, minimize research waste and provide guidance on sustained clinical trials that are always functional and active for endemic conditions and can pivot in time of emergency or pandemics. Research for Health (RFH) World Health Organization The Guidance for Best Practices for Clinical Trials has been developed in response to the 2022 World Health Assembly resolution (WHA75.8) on strengthening clinical trials. This guidance provides Member States with a framework for integrating robust and ethical clinical trial practices into their national health systems, enhancing the quality, transparency, and inclusivity of trials worldwide.Based on the latest evidence, the guidance outlines key principles for conducting clinical trials, including ethical standards, regulatory considerations, and the promotion of patient-centered research. These best practices are designed to improve the efficiency and equity of clinical trials, and ensure that clinical research benefits all populations, especially in low- and middle-income countries.Collaborative developmentThe Guidance was developed through a global, consultative process led by WHO with support from the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Development of Best Practices in Clinical Trials. The final guidance reflects a rich input from global stakeholders, ensuring it addresses diverse perspectives and strengthens clinical trials worldwide, in line with WHO's rigorous standards. AimThe aim of this guidance is to enhance clinical research efficiency, minimize research waste and provide guidance on sustained clinical trials that are always functional and active for endemic conditions and can pivot in time of emergency or pandemics. By integrating these best practices, WHO's Member States and non-State actors can contribute to better health outcomes, promote research equity and support universal health coverage.Key messagesThe tagline for the dissemination of this guidance is "strengthening clinical trials", emphasizing the following key messages:Prioritize public health needs: The guidance underscores prioritizing improvement of public health through clinical research, to ensure equitable health advancements.Strengthening research ecosystems: It advocates reforming national clinical research ecosystems, involving patients, the public, and communities to align research with public needs and sustain trust.Enhancing randomized controlled trials (RCTs) design and oversight: It emphasizes that RCTs should be ethical, efficient, and informative, using risk-based and proportionate methods.Reducing excessive bureaucracy: It seeks to address the issue of excessive bureaucracy, uncoordinated approvals, and lack of supportive environments that impede clinical research in some countries.Sustainable financing: It advocates for sustainable financing from domestic resources, urging countries to prioritize and fund a reformed clinical research ecosystem, which enables the work of clinical researchers.Economic and health benefits: Investing in a robust clinical research ecosystem yields economic benefits, strengthens the science and innovation sector, boosts public trust in health research, provides better evidence for clinical and public health decisions, enhances health outcomes, and advances health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).Proactive engagement with participants and communities: Researchers should proactively address local health research needs, engage communities throughout the research lifecycle, design ethical and innovative trials, and expand cross-border collaborations, where mutually beneficial.Supportive policymakers: Policymakers should ensure an enabling environment for clinical research. Policymakers should engage with clinical researchers to ensure that trials address local needs, and the results translate to policy and practice.WHO support: WHO is ready to support countries in applying the guidance to strengthen their clinical research ecosystems.Structure of the GuidanceThe guidance is structured around four core themes:Why clinical trials matter and persistent challenges: The role of clinical research in resolving public health challenges.Key scientific and ethical considerations for clinical trials: Ensuring good clinical trials that are reliably informative, ethical and efficient.Strengthening clinical trial ecosystem: Addressing holistic view on how to strengthen clinical trial ecosystem.Conclusion and how to transform clinical trials: Recommendations for diverse stakeholders including Member States, funders, and researchers.Call to Action"Integrate best practices for clinical trials within national health research to ensure ethical, equitable, and efficient research that improves health for all."Different stakeholders strengthen clinical research in many ways as outlined below.Ethics committeesEthics committees are key to safeguarding the integrity and fairness of clinical trials. Ensure that trials comply with the highest ethical standards, particularly regarding informed consent, protection of vulnerable populations, and risk-benefit analysis. Build capacity for ethical review committees and encourage multi-country collaboration, where mutually beneficial. Support access to interventions in under-represented populations through generation of evidence in these groups. Ensure efficiency and timeliness in ethics committee review processes.FundersFunding plays a critical role in strengthening clinical trials. Invest in equitable, efficient, sustainable trials, with a focus on innovation, capacity-building and multi-country collaborations, where mutually beneficial.IndustryEmbrace transparency, engagement and under-represented population groups, prioritize participant safety, and collaborate with public institutions to contribute to building robust research ecosystems and support inclusive research.International organizationsPromote global cooperation and support capacity-building for ethical and scientifically rigorous clinical trials. Foster the harmonization of regulatory and ethics standards across countries. Advocate for multi-stakeholder engagement, supporting the generation of evidence and capacity-building for quality trials that can help achieve health-related SDGs.Member StatesMember States play a pivotal role in creating an enabling environment for clinical trials. Ensure regulatory and ethics frameworks are adequately resourced, coordinated and efficient; develop sustained infrastructure and careers for clinical researchers; promote streamlining and an enabling environment to support trials that meet public health priorities.Patient/community advocatesAdvocates are essential to ensuring that clinical research are accessible, equitable, and responsive to community needs. Engage actively in trial design and implementation, so that populations are representative, interventions are feasible, and outcomes measured are meaningful. Promote responsible information sharing and demand transparency from researchers and sponsors.Policy makersPolicy makers are essential in shaping the environment for effective, ethical, and equitable clinical trials. Create policies that foster ethical, efficient and informative trials and support ethical collaboration across sectors and countries. Support capacity building and create frameworks that promote multi-stakeholder collaboration. Ensure that policies foster transparency, inclusivity, and accountability in clinical trials, while aligning with international best practices to protect participants and generate robust evidence for health decision-making.RegulatorsEnsure that clinical trials adhere to global best practices, promoting accountability, transparency, and quality. Oversee trial quality and participant safety through risk-based proportionate oversight and harmonize requirements. Monitor timelines for approval processes to promote efficiency. Develop joint review processes and ensure that monitoring and audits are risk proportionate.Foster regional and international collaboration.ResearchersAdopt best practices in innovative trial design, transparency, ethical conduct, and collaboration with relevant stakeholders including patients and communities. Recognize that proportionality, and risk-based quality management, is an aspect of best practices in clinical research. Skip to main content The World Health Organization (WHO) has published the Global action plan for clinical trial ecosystem strengthening (GAP-CTS), a key implementation tool aligned with World Health Assembly resolution WHA75.8 (2022) on strengthening clinical trials. The plan outlines nine priority actions to support countries and stakeholders reform and sustain clinical trial systems that are fit for purpose, inclusive and locally led.Anchored in WHOs 2024 Guidance for best practices for clinical trials, GAP-CTS addresses persistent disparities in trial activity and access, especially in low- and middle-income countries, and calls for systemic improvements to trial funding, design, coordination and ethical oversight.The nine actions are designed to:strengthen national leadership and governance of research systemsenhance engagement with patients, communities and the publicaddress barriers faced by under-represented populationsadopt innovative designs and digital technologiesaccelerate access to training for the research workforceimprove regulatory and ethics review efficiencyintegrate trials into health systems and routine careimprove research transparency via trial registriesexpand international collaboration across regions and sectors.Reformed research and clinical trial ecosystems will lead to more equitable access to research capacity, better trained workforces and higher quality evidence that meets local population needs, said Dr Jeremy Farrar, Chief Scientist at WHO.To support uptake, WHO will convene partners through the Global Clinical Trials Forum (GCTF) a WHO-managed network that facilitates peer support and knowledge exchange on implementing these actions. All stakeholders including WHO Member States, funders, regulators, trial sponsors, patient and community engagement organizations, and research institutions are called to align their efforts with GAP-CTS, contribute data to monitor progress and support collaborative reforms.The GAP-CTS is designed to be used by a wide range of stakeholders, including those involved in trial funding prioritization, ethics oversight, patient and community involvement, regulation and clinical research delivery, with the goal of creating sustainable and resilient ecosystems for high-quality clinical research.Read the full action plan: Global action plan for clinical trial ecosystem strengtheningFor questions or engagement opportunities: wha758@who.int Skip to main content In May 2022, the World Health Assembly adopted Resolution 75.8, "Strengthening clinical trials to provide high-quality evidence on health interventions and to improve research quality and coordination." This resolution underscores the need to enhance both global and national clinical trial ecosystems to advance equitable clinical trial capacity and improve health outcomes. In response to this mandate, the World Health Organization (WHO) is hosting a virtual event to launch a new Series of articles to be published in The Lancet Global Health. These independently authored articles explore key reforms needed to strengthen clinical trial design, ethics, regulation, and infrastructure, contributing to discussions on improving the quality, credibility, and impact of clinical research globally.Event purposeThis event aims to engage and inform key stakeholders about the upcoming Series in The Lancet Global Health and its alignment with ongoing efforts to strengthen clinical trials worldwide. The launch will provide a platform to discuss the themes covered in the Series and explore their implications for global health research and policy.Event objectivesInform: Present key insights from the Series and how they contribute to discussions on clinical trial reform.Engage: Facilitate discussions on the relevance of these findings for strengthening clinical trial ecosystems.Adopt: Encourage consideration of the issues raised in the articles for advancing clinical trial policies and practices.Collaborate: Strengthen partnerships that drive innovation and improvements in clinical trial governance, ethics, and implementation.Target audienceThis event is designed for a diverse range of stakeholders, including policymakers, clinical trial regulators, funders, researchers, community and patient engagement advocates research ethics committee members. Expected outcomesIncreased awareness of the themes discussed in The Lancet Global Health Series on Clinical Trials and their relevance to strengthening clinical research.Interest in applying these insights to enhance clinical trial governance, ethical oversight, and implementation.Strengthened partnerships among policymakers, regulators, funders, researchers, and advocacy groups.Momentum for continued discussions on strengthening clinical trial ecosystems globally.Join us to engage with global experts, explore key challenges, and drive solutions for more effective and inclusive clinical trials! Skip to main content The mission of the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform is to ensure that a complete view of research is accessible to all those involved in health care decision making. This will improve research transparency and will ultimately strengthen the validity and value of the scientific evidence base.The aim of the site is to improve awareness and make it easier to access accurate, up to date, understandable information relevant to the conduct of clinical trials in children. It will thereby contribute to addressing the Millennium Development Goal of reducing child mortality. Children are a unique population with distinct developmental and physiological differences from adults. Clinical trials in children are essential to develop age-specific, empirically-verified therapies and interventions to determine and improve the best medical treatment available. Ethical ImplicationsThe ICTRP is committed to promoting the conduct of ethical and relevant clinical trials in children by improving access to guidelines, regulations and trial registration data. Specific ethical and clinical considerations must also be taken into account when designing, implementing and evaluating these clinical trials and their findings.Children are an exceptional population with specific ethical and clinical concerns. Clinical research is of paramount importance in developing safe medications, paediatric formulations, clinical interventions and best practice guidelines. The vulnerable nature of this population must be considered when balancing the risks of research with the need for safe and validated therapies. In some countries, children are usually unable to provide legally binding consent to participate in a clinical trial. The ICTRP is committed to promoting the conduct of ethical and relevant clinical trials in children by improving access to guidelines, regulations and registered trial information. Clinical trials in children are very important because they help researchers discover the best way to treat children. Children are not just small adults their bodies work in very different ways and they often undergo many changes as they grow from infancy towards adolescence and adulthood. Because their bodies work differently, its important to create child-specific medicines and treatments instead of just modifying adult doses and therapies.Clinical trials in children need to pass rigorous ethical evaluations and meet certain standards before being allowed to recruit patients.Can I enroll my child in a clinical trial?Researchers often have specific requirements when enroling particpants. If you are interested in enroling your child in a clinical trial, you should ask your health care provider for more information. She or he may then refer you to the appropriate investigator.Consent and AssentBefore your child is enroled in a study, its important that you and your child understand the risks and benefits of participating. Because your child is a minor, you may be legally required to give informed consent allowing them to participate. Your child may also need to give their assent after having the trial explained to them in an age-appropriate manner. Both you and your child should have the chance to ask any questions you want before you agree to participate, and also at any time during the study. Skip to main content Skip to main content The registration of all interventional trials is considered to be a scientific, ethical and moral responsibility because:There is a need to ensure that decisions about health care are informed by all of the available evidenceIt is difficult to make informed decisions ifpublication biasand selective reportingare present The Declaration of Helsinkistates that "Every clinical trial must be registered in a publicly accessible database before recruitment of the first subject".Improving awareness of similar or identical trials will make it possible for researchers and funding agencies to avoid unnecessary duplicationDescribing clinical trials in progress can make it easier to identify gaps in clinical trials researchMaking researchers and potential participants aware of recruiting trials may facilitate recruitmentEnabling researchers and health care practitioners to identify trials in which they may have an interest could result in more effective collaboration among researchers. The type of collaboration may includeprospective meta-analysis Registries checking data as part of the registration process may lead to improvements in the quality of clinical trials by making it possible to identify potential problems (such as problematic randomization methods) early in the research processHow to register a trialYou cannot register a trial with WHO. The WHO ICTRP is not a clinical trials registry.To register a trial, submit the details directly to any one of thePrimary Registries in the WHO Registry Network or anICMJE approved registry.To meet the requirements of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) you can register your trial with any Primary Registry in the WHO Registry Network or an ICMJE approved registry.To meet WHO requirements for transparency and publication, it is only necessary for your trial to be registered once, in either a Primary Registry in the WHO Registry Network or an ICMJE approved registry.NOTE: Regulatory, legal, ethical, funding and other requirements for oversight and conduct of clinical trials differ from country to country. It is recommended that those responsible for conducting a clinical trial check to make sure they are complying with the specific requirements of each country.The organizations listed below have policies on clinical trial registration. If you know of an organization that could be added to this list, please contact us.Codes of research practiceFundersEthics committeesLegal requirementNational research ethics oversight agenciesProfessional organizationsPublishersUniversitiesBoston University Medical CampusImperial College LondonUniversity of OxfordPharmaceutical industry

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