

JRMO COVID-19 REVIEW COMMITTEE

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Given staffing capacity and COVID-19 in-patient numbers, the JRMO COVID-19 Review Committee agreed that there is now a need to make feasibility decisions on COVID-19 studies that are in set up or already approved by the JRMO.

The following list of guiding principles only applies to clinical studies (including CTIMPs) which require consent from hospital in-patients with COVID-19 at Barts Health NHS Trust. This guidance does not apply to studies which do not include Barts Health NHS Trust patients, studies of staff participants, anonymised patient data only studies and out-patient COVID-19 studies:

1. The study Principal Investigator should be an active member of the direct care team and would normally have expertise in the disease area.
2. Researchers should specify how they will provide research staff resources for patient recruitment at each Barts Health recruiting site where patients may be approached, treated and followed-up. They should also clarify arrangements for these staff to work collaboratively with other research staff recruiting to urgent health priority studies.

The JRMO can approve individual sites but extending to other recruiting sites will only be approved once resources for the other sites are confirmed by the study team.

Researchers should specify the source of financial support for the studies in liaison with the JRMO costings and contracts pre-award team.

3. COVID-19 in-patient clinical studies will be ranked according to national priority (UPH/CMO badged studies). Currently, the main national priorities are REMAP-CAP, RECOVERY and COVID vaccine trials. Only in exceptional circumstances would it be recommended that a patient takes part concurrently in more than three active studies.
4. The Committee will give particular consideration to the demands placed by each study on the central pool of CRN funded research nurses redeployed to support recruitment to priority COVID-19 research.

Although priority will be given for CRN and Trust research resources for the delivery of national priority Covid-19 trials including Vaccine Trials, currently there is a challenge in utilising CRN support for any urgent public health studies.