

OHMR Research Ethics and Governance Metrics Program



Metrics Activity Report for NSW PHOs

01/07/2021

NSW Office for Health and Medical Research



Executive Summary

This report includes strategic and site level performance and compliance metrics that are collected by the Office for Health and Medical Research (OHMR) from NSW Public Health Organisations (PHOs) on studies authorised between 1st of January 2021 and 31st of June 2021. The performance of NSW PHOs on health and medical research are reported four times a year, each covering a 3-month period.

Overall Performance Environment:

REGIS is the online platform used to manage ethics and governance applications for all NSW Public Health Organisations. OHMR has undertaken data validation activities with LHD Research Office staff to accurately represent research ethics and governance performance on this platform. These rolling validation activities may result in data reported here to differ from previous reports.

Update to Metrics Program

As reported previously, OHMR propose the following changes to the Research Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for inclusion in the Chief Executives' Services Agreement:

- Change benchmark to measure Total Time rather than time spent with LHD Research Office alone
- Number of Greater than Low Risk projects (GLR) processed within application total time
 - 90 days for ethics, 60 days for governance
 - Threshold changes
 - >75% = Performing
 - 55%-75% = Underperforming
 - <55% = Not performing

This report includes an additional column to demonstrate how each LHD would perform under the updated program. These new metrics are proposed to be included in the 2021/22 Service Level Agreement and, as such, do not apply to this reporting period. These are presented as demonstration.



METRIC 3: NSW HREC Submission Closing Date to NSW HREC Approval (using administrative clock)

NSW State Benchmark:

- The benchmark from the 2018/19 financial year onwards is for reviewing human research studies for NSW PHO HRECs within 45 calendar days.
- The proposed benchmark for the 2021/22 financial year onwards is for reviewing human research studies for NSW PHO HRECs within 90 calendar days

All studies (greater than low risk) approved by the HREC with a final Decision Notification date between 1st of January 2021 and 30st of June 2021.

Selection Criteria Summary:

Study Type- "All", Current Decision- "Approved", Final Decision Notification Date- "within the period"

Total Time:

Total time is the measurement of the total, unadjusted time from the Submission Closing Date of the first meeting the application is assigned to, to when the final decision notification email is sent.

Metric Time:

Metric time is the calculated adjustments to the total time to account for processes where an application is worked on by both Research Office staff and the Researcher (that is, where a 'clock on/clock off' function is employed). These calculations determine whether applications are processed within the specified timeframes.

Summary for Metric 3:

Ethics review performance of NSW HRECs according to the <45-day benchmark for studies approved between 01/01/2021 and 30/06/2021 are shown in Table 1, displayed by quarters.

The second quarter of 2021, 235 studies (greater than low risk pathway) were approved by an HREC with a final written Decision Notification Date (final clock stop date) between 01/03/2021 and 30/06/2021. Of these applications, 79 (34%) were classified as clinical trials (Table 2).

Table 1: The 45 calendar days benchmark for review and approval of human research ethics applications (greater than low risk) between 01/01/2021 – 30/06/2021, by quarter.

LHD	Q1							Q2						
	Total Number of Applications	45 Day Benchmark (with Administrative clock)			90 Day Benchmark (Total Time)			Total Number of Applications	45 Day Benchmark (with Administrative clock)			90 Day Benchmark (Total Time)		
		Count 45 Day Benchmark	% 45 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Count 90 Day Benchmark	% 90 Day Total Time Benchmark	Average Total Time (Days)		Count 45 Day Benchmark	% 45 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Count 90 Day Benchmark	% 90 Day Total Time Benchmark	Average Total Time (Days)
BLLBRRY	16	13	81%	28	10	63%	77	13	13	100%	21	11	85%	50
CINSW	9	9	100%	30	4	44%	86	16	16	100%	29	13	81%	72
HNELHD	27	21	78%	35	13	48%	96	27	24	89%	27	20	74%	76
ISLHD	8	3	38%	73	3	38%	127	2	0	0%	46	1	50%	178
JHFMHN	2	0	0%	303	0	0%	291	3	1	33%	46	1	33%	122
NBMLHD	5	5	100%	33	4	80%	82	10	9	90%	35	9	90%	69
NNSWLHD	5	3	60%	34	2	40%	91	1	1	100%	25	1	100%	66
NSLHD	16	15	94%	31	11	69%	84	22	21	95%	22	16	73%	82
SCHN	21	21	100%	28	10	48%	97	12	11	92%	29	9	75%	93
SESLHD	10	5	50%	44	4	40%	104	12	7	58%	50	5	42%	142
SLHD-CCD	11-	11	100%	17	7	64%	89	9	9	100%	23	5	56%	85
SLHD-RPA	31	30	97%	16	15	48%	95	47	47	100%	14	33	70%	79
SVHN	22	16	73%	40	7	32%	116	18	14	78%	33	14	78%	79
SWSLHD	26	21	81%	35	11	42%	107	21	21	100%	25	16	76%	88
WNSWLHD	3	1	33%	51	2	67%	90	3	1	33%	56	2	67%	105
WSLHD	17	17	100%	27	14	82%	67	19	19	100%	26	15	79%	67
TOTAL	229	191	83%	30	117	51%	89	235	214	91%	26	171	73%	82

Table 2: The 45 calendar days benchmark for the review and approval of human research ethics clinical trial applications (greater than low risk) between 01/01/2021 and 30/06/2021, by quarter.

	Q1							Q2						
	Total Number of Applications	45 Day Benchmark (with clock)			90 Day Benchmark (without clock)			Total Number of Applications	45 Day Benchmark (with clock)			90 Day Benchmark (without clock)		
		Count 45 Day Benchmark	% 45 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Count 90 Day Benchmark	% 90 Day Total Time Benchmark	Average Total Time (Days)		Count 45 Day Benchmark	% 45 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Count 90 Day Benchmark	% 90 Day Total Time Benchmark	Average Total Time (Days)
BLLBRRY	16	13	81%	28	10	63%	77	13	13	100%	21	11	85%	50
CINSW	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	0	-	-
HNELHD	8	6	75%	37	4	50%	96	4	3	75%	39	3	75%	97
ISLHD	2	0	0%	121	0	0%	248	0	0	-	-	0	-	-
JHFMHN	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	0	-	-
NBMLHD	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	2	1	50%	37	2	100%	79
NNSWLHD	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	0	-	-
NSLHD	9	9	100%	28	6	67%	77	9	9	100%	23	5	56%	133
SCHN	9	9	100%	28	5	56%	95	7	7	100%	25	7	100%	50
SESLHD	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	3	2	67%	46	0	0%	153
SLHD-CCD	1	1	100%	14	1	100%	71	2	2	100%	26	0	0%	163
SLHD-RPA	4	4	100%	18	1	25%	90	18	18	100%	12	12	67%	85
SVHN	7	6	86%	33	3	43%	119	8	6	75%	33	7	88%	64
SWSLHD	7	3	43%	41	1	14%	148	5	5	100%	25	4	80%	77
WNSWLHD	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	0	-	-
WSLHD	8	8	100%	27	8	100%	57	8	8	100%	27	7	88%	61
TOTAL	71	59	83%	33	39	55%	96	79	74	94%	24	58	73%	81

Table 3: Historical performance against the 45 calendar days benchmark for the review and approval of human research ethics applications (greater than low risk) between 01/01/2018 and 31/12/2020.

Ethics Applications						
LHD	2018 Total		2019 Total		2020 Total	
	Number of Applications	% 45 Day Benchmark	Number of Applications	% 45 Day Benchmark	Number of Applications	% 45 Day Benchmark
BLLBRRY	.*	.*	33	94%	76	95%
CINSW	69	50%	52	89%	60	92%
HNELHD	101	88%	122	77%	109	88%
ISLHD	32	88%	16	93%	31	26%
JHFMHN	4	84%	5	84%	3	33%
NBMLHD	21	22%	23	49%	26	73%
NNSWLHD	3	0%	7	43%	5	80%
NSLHD	15	20%	21	48%	41	78%
SCHN	76	100%	46	72%	43	100%
SESLHD	74	44%	71	27%	54	13%
SLHD-CCD	42	69%	40	74%	57	96%
SLHD-RPA	157	93%	112	89%	189	98%
SVHN	74	94%	65	95%	86	76%
SWSLHD	63	79%	85	75%	91	76%
WNSWLHD	12	67%	11	75%	16	81%
WSLHD	69	41%	46	51%	95	37%
TOTAL	812	74%	755	74%	982	71%

**Bellberry were not included in the NSW Metrics Program until 2019 when they were established as the dedicated Early Phase Clinical Trial HREC.*



METRIC 4: Date Valid SSA Application Received by the RGO to Site Authorisation

NSW State Benchmark:

- The benchmark for studies approved from the 2018/19 financial year onwards is 15 calendar days.
- The proposed benchmark for the 2021/22 financial year onwards is 60 calendar days

All studies (greater than low risk) authorised with a final SSA Decision Notification Date between 1st of January 2021 and 30th of June 2021.

Selection Criteria Summary:

Study Type- “All”, Current Decision- “Authorised”, “Authorised with conditions” or “Further information response authorised”, Final Decision Notification Date - “within the period”

Total Time:

Total time is the measurement of the total, unadjusted time from the Submission Date to when the final decision notification email is sent granting approval.

Metric Time:

Metric time is the calculated adjustments to the total time to account for processes where an application is worked on by both Research Office staff and the Researcher (that is, where a ‘clock on/clock off’ function is employed). These calculations determine whether applications are processed within the specified timeframes.

Summary for Metric 4:

SSA review performance of NSW PHOs according to the <15 day benchmark for studies authorised between 01/01/2021 and 30/06/2021 are shown in the comparison table (Table 4) and displayed by quarter.

In the second quarter of 2021, 487 studies (greater than low risk) were authorised in NSW PHOs with a final SSA decision letter provided to the site principal investigator (final clock stop date) between 01/04/2021 and 30/06/2021. Of these site authorisation applications, 241 (49%) were classified as clinical trials (Table 5)

Table 4: The 15 calendar days benchmark for review and approval of governance applications (greater than low risk) between 01/01/2021 – 30/06/2021 by quarter.

All Greater than Low Risk Governance Applications														
LHD	Q1							Q2						
	Number of Applications	15 Day Benchmark (with clock)			60 Day Benchmark (without clock)			Number of Applications	15 Day Benchmark (with clock)			60 Day Benchmark (without clock)		
		Count of 15 Day Benchmark	% 15 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Count of 60 Day Benchmark	% 60 Day Total Time Benchmark	Average Total Time (Days)		Count of 15 Day Benchmark	% 15 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Count of 60 Day Benchmark	% 60 Day Total Time Benchmark	Average Total Time
ASNSW	1	1	100%	0	0	0%	76	3	3	100%	6	3	100%	11
CALVARY	13	8	62%	14	12	92%	29	9	6	67%	15	9	100%	17
CCLHD	14	3	21%	29	6	43%	79	12	9	75%	18	8	67%	70
FWLHD	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	2	1	50%	10	2	100%	14
HNELHD	42	13	31%	28	28	67%	63	33	20	61%	14	26	79%	40
ISLHD	13	13	100%	6	7	54%	63	17	14	82%	8	12	71%	89
JHFMHN	3	1	33%	52	1	33%	114	1	1	100%	8	1	100%	19
MLHD	1	0	0%	45	0	0%	109	5	5	100%	6	5	100%	13
MNCLHD	6	2	33%	22	5	83%	46	9	5	56%	21	7	78%	71
NBMLHD	17	12	71%	13	8	47%	104	21	12	57%	15	9	43%	114
NNSWLHD	6	5	83%	6	4	67%	64	2	1	50%	12	2	100%	12
NSLHD	32	29	91%	8	16	50%	89	39	37	95%	6	24	62%	71
NSWHPH	9	7	78%	13	1	11%	143	6	4	67%	13	1	17%	135
SCHN	18	16	89%	7	8	44%	74	32	26	81%	14	14	44%	105
SESLHD	54	49	91%	5	41	76%	44	41	37	90%	6	31	76%	46
SLHD-CCD	14	13	93%	5	12	86%	85	29	29	100%	6	18	62%	66
SLHD-RPA	26	21	81%	7	17	65%	70	46	36	78%	11	34	74%	51
SNSWLHD	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	2	0	0%	55	0	0%	108
SVHN	24	18	75%	12	12	50%	75	32	23	72%	13	23	72%	62
SWSLHD	64	60	94%	7	29	45%	105	62	61	98%	4	40	65%	87
WNSWLHD	6	6	100%	1	5	83%	19	8	7	88%	5	5	63%	117
WSLHD	76	72	95%	8	47	62%	70	76	69	91%	9	48	63%	76
TOTAL	439	349	79%	11	259	59%	75	487	406	83%	10	322	66%	71

Table 5: The 15 calendar days benchmark for the review and approval of governance clinical trial applications (greater than low risk) between 01/01/2021 and 30/06/2021, by quarter.

All Greater than Low Risk Clinical Trials														
LHD	Q1							Q2						
	Number of Applications	15 Day Benchmark (with clock)			60 Day Benchmark (without clock)			Number of Applications	15 Day Benchmark (with clock)			60 Day Benchmark (without clock)		
		Count of 15 Day Benchmark	% 15 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Count of 60 Day Benchmark	% 60 Day Total Time Benchmark	Average Total Time (Days)		Count of 15 Day Benchmark	% 15 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Count of 60 Day Benchmark	% 60 Day Total Time Benchmark	Average Total Time (Days)
ASNSW	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	1	1	100%	9	1	100%	15
CALVARY	10	7	70%	12	10	100%	21	8	5	63%	16	8	100%	17
CCLHD	11	3	36%	25	6	55%	66	5	4	80%	25	4	80%	82
FWLHD	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	0	-	-
HNELHD	15	3	27%	31	13	87%	49	9	5	56%	14	7	78%	41
ISLHD	5	5	100%	6	2	40%	62	9	7	78%	9	6	67%	84
JHFMHN	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	0	-	-
MLHD	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	2	2	100%	10	2	100%	19
MNCLHD	5	2	40%	22	5	100%	35	2	1	50%	21	1	50%	89
NBMLHD	8	5	75%	16	5	75%	54	8	6	75%	13	5	63%	126
NNSWLHD	2	2	100%	0	1	50%	128	1	1	100%	0	1	100%	0
NSLHD	21	19	95%	8	11	52%	95	33	31	94%	6	20	61%	73
NSWHPH	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	0	-	-
SCHN	10	10	100%	6	6	70%	54	15	14	93%	8	7	47%	100
SESLHD	22	17	82%	9	18	82%	33	22	18	82%	9	19	86%	39
SLHD-CCD	5	4	100%	8	5	100%	39	15	15	100%	8	10	73%	70
SLHD-RPA	8	3	50%	17	5	63%	61	23	15	65%	17	15	65%	68
SNSWLHD	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	0	-	-
SVHN	11	9	82%	10	5	45%	82	19	12	79%	15	11	58%	85
SWSLHD	25	22	88%	9	11	44%	107	22	21	95%	5	16	73%	79
WNSWLHD	1	1	100%	1	0	100%	60	1	1	100%	1	1	100%	13
WSLHD	52	49	98%	7	39	75%	45	46	41	91%	8	34	74%	64
TOTAL	211	161	76%	12	142	67%	60	241	200	83%	10	168	70%	69

Table 6: Historical performance against the 15 calendar days benchmark for the review and approval of governance applications (greater than low risk) between 01/01/2018 and 31/12/2020.

Governance Applications						
LHD	2018 Total		2019 Total		2020 Total	
	Number of Applications	% 15 Day Benchmark	Number of Applications	% 15 Day Benchmark	Number of Applications	% 15 Day Benchmark
ASNSW	0	-	1	0%	11	64%
CALVARY	.*	.*	.*	.*	27	63%
CCLHD	37	81%	29	33%	53	17%
FWLHD	-	-	-	-	3	100%
HNELHD	207	64%	201	53%	169	58%
ISLHD	77	63%	38	52%	53	74%
JHFMHN	7	100%	6	88%	0	-
MLHD	21	44%	13	33%	14	50%
MNCLHD	2 ±	0%	25	25%	18	56%
NBMLHD	79	71%	67	39%	80	41%
NNSWLHD	74 ±	59%	54	50%	21	48%
NSLHD	22	18%	37	41%	134	52%
NSWHPH	-	-	-	-	16	75%
SCHN	142	54%	117	58%	99	73%
SESLHD	205	56%	127	43%	234	77%
SLHD-CCD	86	66%	81	82%	81	98%
SLHD-RPA	200	95%	162	84%	148	80%
SNSWLHD	9	82%	4	84%	8	63%
SVHN	135	88%	81	72%	105	72%
SWSLHD	218	63%	181	85%	209	95%
WNSWLHD	52	98%	22	85%	32	100%
WSLHD	248	68%	207	68%	229	47%
TOTAL	1821	65%	1453	56%	1744	67%

*Calvary Mater Hospital Newcastle were not included in the NSW Metrics Program until July 2020

± Earlier Metrics Reports were not able to distinguish clearly between the activities of NNSW and MNCLHDs. This was rectified in 2019 by the introduction of REGIS.

A list of NSW PHOs names and abbreviations that review and/or authorise human research studies:

Human Research Ethics Committee/ Research Governance Office Names	Abbreviation used in the tables	Ethics	Site
Ambulance Service of NSW	ASNSW		Yes
Bellberry	BLLBRRY	Yes	
Calvary Mater Hospital Newcastle	CALVARY		Yes
Central Coast LHD	CCLHD		Yes
NSW Population & Health Services Research Ethics Committee	CINSW	Yes	
Greater Western LHD	WNSWLHD	Yes	Yes
Hammond Care	HCARE		Yes
Hunter New England LHD	HNELHD	Yes	Yes
Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network	JHFMHN	Yes	Yes
Mid North Coast LHD	MNCLHD		Yes
Murrumbidgee LHD	MLHD		Yes
Northern NSW LHD	NNSWLHD	Yes	Yes
Nepean Blue Mountains LHD	NBMLHD	Yes	Yes
Northern Sydney LHD	NSLHD	Yes	Yes
NSW Health Pathology	NSWHPTH		Yes
Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney HREC	RRCS	Yes	
Sydney Children's Hospitals Network	SCHN	Yes	Yes
South Eastern Sydney LHD	SESLHD	Yes	Yes
Sydney LHD (Concord Zone)	SLHD – CCD	Yes	Yes
Sydney LHD (RPAH Zone)	SLHD – RPA	Yes	Yes
Southern NSW LHD	SNSWLHD		Yes
St Vincent's Hospital	SVHN	Yes	Yes
South Western Sydney LHD	SWSLHD	Yes	Yes
Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD (joint committee with University of Wollongong)	ISLHD	Yes	Yes
Western Sydney LHD	WSLHD	Yes	Yes



For more information

This report has been prepared by the Research Ethics and Governance Unit in Office for Health and Medical Research.

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