

VMIA & Nucleus Network launch new Standard Operating Procedures to achieve GCP for Victorian Public research institutions

A set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Clinical Research Sites was released to public hospitals and research institutions in Victoria last week. The Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA), in conjunction with Nucleus Network has developed a generic set of SOPs to assist these institutions comply with regulatory requirements and GCP guidelines.

Nucleus Network, the leading early phase clinical research and education group, has been working collaboratively with research institutions, academia, pharmaceutical companies and government bodies, to coordinate this body of work. VMIA has been playing a proactive role in supporting clinical research through sponsoring a number of initiatives.

Bill Karanatsios from VMIA said "All efforts to streamline the processes in the conduct of clinical trials, while augmenting the standards of compliance with GCP requirements, make our sites, our state and our country, a more attractive place to do trials whilst also managing the risk of such important work"

Key stakeholders from the clinical research industry participated in creating the 13 Standard Operating Procedures templates which form the basis of a quality system at a research site. These SOPs are intended to augment those already in place and are designed to be customised for individual institutional use.

The SOPs are available free of charge online at www.vmia.vic.gov.au .

The format available online is .pdf

Institutions are also able to obtain MS-WORD versions for customisation to their own institutional requirements by contacting Bill Karanatsios at VMIA.

It is envisaged that a number of institutional training workshops will be available in 2008 from Nucleus Network to assist institutions and Public Hospitals to adopt and customise these SOPs for their own use.

Andrew Giddy, CEO Nucleus Network said "Producing these new SOPs to support GCP at research sites is another way that Nucleus Network is trying to build Australia's clinical research capability. In 2007 we extended our subsidised GCP training programme to all Australian mainland states and were co-conveners with the University of Melbourne of the inaugural and highly successful 'Clinical Research Excellence 07' conference."

