Reviewer’s report

Title: Comparison of paediatric health research consent forms in Canada: working towards best practices

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Reviewer: Deborah Mascalzoni

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Pediatric consent has been a great challenge in its conception and in the translation into forms. If in the literature there is agreement about basic principles little is known about the practice of the forms and of the practice of consenting with children. This timing article offers a good qualitative analysis of several consent forms in Canada. The grid of concepts for filtering the key issues is well thought and the results interesting. I found especially relevant some of the observed discrepancies between ethical requirements such as autonomy and right to withdraw, and the use of formulas such as broad consent signed by parents.

Some emerging issues such as the theme of return of results and biobanking are growingly relevant and more work would be welcome on this issue. It would be very welcome an integrated approach for comparing forms and "practice of consenting" that would probably require more sociological work or take into account existing reports.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests