Reviewer’s report

Title: Can an Online Clinical Data Management service help in improving data collection and data quality in a developing country setting?

Version: 2 Date: 19 June 2011

Reviewer: Gordon Doig

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Review of Trials manuscript: “Can an Online Clinical Data Management service help in improving data collection and data quality in a developing country setting?”

This is a very interesting paper. I trust the following issues will bring clarity:

1. Methods: Since this paper concerns an Online Clinical Data Management service, please provide appropriate details about the service. Was the data collected over the web or over the internet (say using FTP)? What software was used to prepare the forms or serve the website (be specific)? Was the transmission of data encrypted? Were sites required to log on? What speed of internet connection was required to run the CTDMS properly? Did the forms have live data quality validation rules? How were they implemented? Please provide a complete technical description of the CTDMS.

2. Were error rates determined by direct audit of source documents? If not, the main focus of your paper must change. You would be more correct to refer to your ‘error rate’ as ‘form submission errors’. Please correct your manuscript to refer to ‘form submission errors’ wherever you specifically refer to these types of errors.

3. Please provide a list of eCRF filters/rules that would trigger an ‘error flag’ on submission.

4. In your discussion, please address the fact that error rate is technically unknown since a source document audit was not undertaken.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.