Dear Editor,

First, we wish to thank the reviewer, for the significant improvements of our manuscript after implementing his inputs and recommendations. We have now implemented also the last minor changes:

- We now stick with the language of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and we eliminated the references to a "framework" throughout the paper
- In p.5, we now refer to "health research" instead of 'clinical research'
- In p.7 and 17, we corrected the sentences as suggested, to improve readability

We also made a few other formal changes in the text, to improve clarity, and harmonized everywhere the wording N(R)EC. In addition, we have re-included one important reference that introduces the term “Ethics Preparedness” as used in the manuscript.
We attach, for your convenience, a track-changes version of the revised manuscript, in addition to the clean copy.

Best regards,

Raffaella Ravinetto on behalf of co-authors