Reviewer’s report

Title: Improving the process of research ethics review

Version: 0 Date: 21 Apr 2017

Reviewer: David Resnik

Reviewer’s report:

This article provides a useful overview of the research ethics review process and helps us to better understand where and why delays can occur.

Comments:

The most useful part of the paper is Figure 2, which needs a bit more elaboration in the text.

I think a take-home message from this paper is that investigators often complain that the delays come from the IRB or REB, but as this paper clearly shows there many areas of delay, especially the pre- and post-review processes. Delays can occur because the investigator has not prepared a complete or thorough submission or because they are taking time to respond to the IRB's stipulations for approval. The author could emphasize this more in the discussion.

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