

# NMA SYMPOSIUM: 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017

Experiences with the NMA: the CRO Perspective

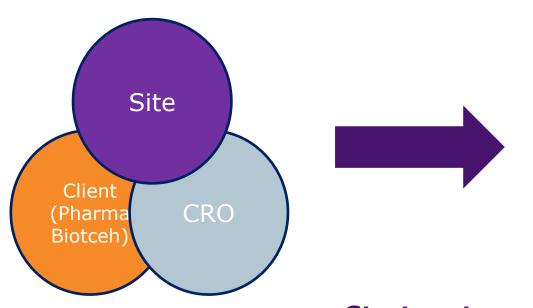
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HELPING DELIVER LIFE CHANGING THERAPIES



## **CRO ROLE IN CLINICAL TRIALS**



Delivery new therapies to improve Health care for Australians

**Start up team** 

**Clinical team** 



## **NMA EXPERIENCE.....THE STORY SO FAR**

- + Overall POSITIVE experience.
- + Reduction in the duplication of submissions.



- + Establishment of consistency of core study/site documents such as ICFs; Patient Materials (Cards, Diaries); NEAF (Online Forms)
- + Reduced margin of error in core site documents
- + Reduction in overall site activation timelines. However this is widely dependant on local ethics jurisdiction and governance process.
- + Although the implementation of NMA has been generally positive- we still have some challenges to overcome.



#### **CHALLENGES/BARRIERS DURING START UP**

#### + Consistency amongst local HREC/RGO

#### + Ethics

- + Identifying Lead sites
- + Monthly Submission deadline
- + Timely receipt of queries
- + Communication
- + Local practises aren't in line with the NMA Guidelines

#### + Governance

- + Communication
- + Timely reviews of submission packages (10-12 weeks for approval at some sites)
- + Additional administrative burden- review of HREC approved documents



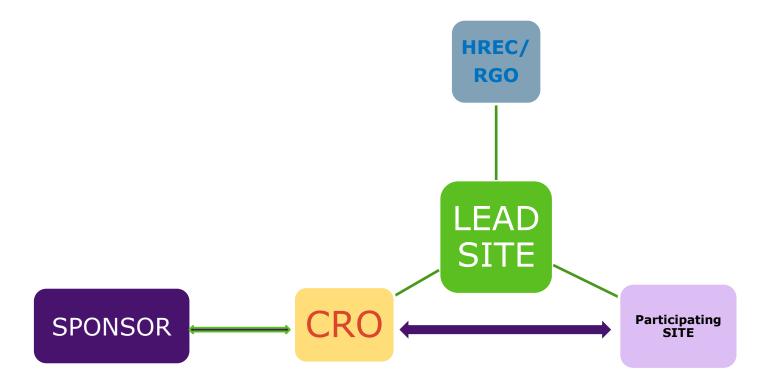
### PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LEAD SITE

- + Critically important to the integrity and success of any clinical trial
- + CRO partner with the client to identify lead site.
- + During feasibility and PSV critical intel is collected from the sites
- + Key Identifiers of a lead site:
  - Communication
  - Productivity and Motivation
  - Organisation
  - Resource
  - HREC Considerations





#### **CLEAR COMMUNICATION PROCESSES**

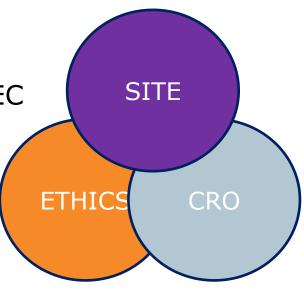


+ Delays are inevitable- it's how we communicate, process and work through them as a team that makes the difference!



### **CASE STUDY- WHEN NMA WORKS WELL**

- + Lead Site has Capacity and Resource
- + Documents are secured early from lead site AND participating sites
- + Documents are provided to the site early by CRO
- + Dedicated staff for Ethics Process
- + Motivated and Organised Lead Site
- + Clear Communication Pathway
- + Budget Negotiations in Parallel to HREC



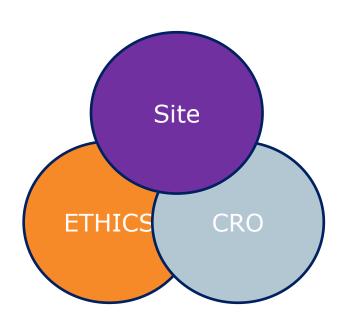


## **BELLBERRY**

- + Strong "selling" point for Australia- Identification of private sites that can utilise Bellberry
- + Consistent and timely reviews
- + Clear SOPs available for ICF customisation and approval process.
- + Weekly submission deadlines (guaranteed review 2 weeks later): no risk of HREC meeting being full
- + Weekly meetings
- + Fast approval timelines:
  - Approx. 20 days for a Bb review (submission to final Approval)
  - 16 days for a Phase 1 Bb review.



# CASE STUDY- WHEN NMA HAS NOT WORKED WELL



- + Inconsistency: HREC not providing initial lead site approval for the study until CTRA was finalised.
- + Delays from site in receiving communication/queries from HREC (+30days).
- + Excessive rounds of queries (4)
- + 5 months for lead site HREC approval
- + Delays patients at the participating sites access to new drug therapy.



### **POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS**

#### **Ethics**

- + Improved Communication- Can CRO work directly with HREC
- + CRO Inclusion on all communication to HREC
- + More Regular Meetings- Bi monthly?

#### **Governance**

- + Improved Communication- Can CRO work directly with RGO
- + Inclusion of CRO on communication: faster resolution of queries.
- + Review of CTRA/Indemnities only: diminish the burden of additional administrative reviews of already approve HREC documents.



### **CONTINUING CHALLENGES.....**

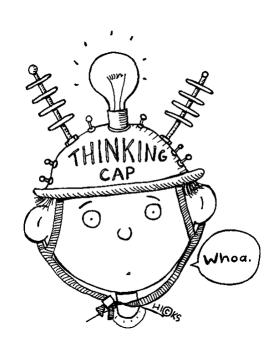
- + NO LEAD SITE- how to over come this?
- + Generally still require Multiple Submissions per study: Bellberry, TAS, WA are not included on NMA. Can we move towards including these regions/committees on the NMA?
- + How can we fully implement the concept of parallel submissions? This is the key "rate limiting" step for site activation in Australia.





## **THOUGHTS FOR THE FUTURE.....**

- + Work towards "selling Australia" as an attractive and competitive global first choice for Clinical Trials
- + Improve sustainability to bring new business to the region as we become faster, more reliable and more competitive.
- + Greater access to wider range of new treatment therapies for Australian patients.
- + Implications on recruitment and clinical monitoring
- + Increase patient enrolment numbers; more patients access to new, innovate and life changing treatments.



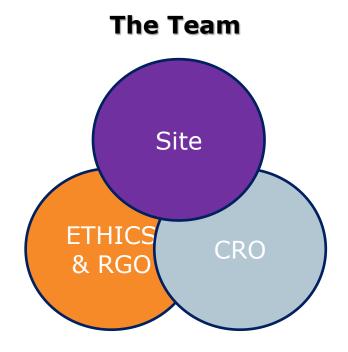


#### **KEEP THE SUCCESS COMING....**

## The Success Of Teamwork

Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.

~ Henry Ford ~





## **QUESTIONS**





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