

media release

Joint industry statement on clinical trials

26 March 2020

For immediate release

Clinical trials are critical in COVID-19 fight

In support of the clinical trials sector during the COVID-19 pandemic, a position statement has been developed by the Research and Development TaskForce (RDTF), sponsored by AusBiotech, Medicines Australia, and the Medical Technology Association of Australia, together with respective memberships.

This position statement details specific guidance on how and why clinical trial sites should remain open during the COVID-19 healthy emergency. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds in Australia, additional strategies will need to be implemented to ensure that the safety, well-being and ongoing conduct of clinical trials are maintained, with as little interruption and inconvenience to the participant as possible.

A flexible and supportive clinical trials environment should ensure that Australian patients are best placed to receive early access to experimental vaccines and treatments for COVID-19, and other innovative treatments, that they would otherwise not have access to.

The RDTF has formed a COVID-19 Working Group to support the clinical trials sector as the effects of the COVID -19 pandemic are felt around the nation. It is acknowledged that a strong collaborative sector-wide effort will be required, as there are many stakeholders involved in the delivery of clinical trials. The Working Group will look at all aspects of clinical trial delivery with the intent of ensuring that trial participants and trial sites are supported and where possible, that patients continue to receive treatment and all safety activities are completed.

Clinical trials remain critical in the path to bringing innovative drugs, vaccines and therapies to consumers and patients in Australia in a safe and regulated manner. Australia has well-developed and highly-regarded early phase clinical trial facilities, and other trial centres and expertise to conduct clinical trials for COVID-19 treatment and prevention. These facilities are well prepared and immediately ready to assist in the development of these treatments, should they be required.

The safety of patients and clinical trial staff employees is at the forefront of the RDTF's minds, and the unrelenting efforts of scientists, physicians, nurses, and allied healthcare workers during the course of this pandemic is inspiring.

Australia is not only a world leader in life sciences research and development, but resilient in the face of any health and economic crisis; industry is strongly supportive of the clinical trial sector through these unprecedented times.

Download the position statement [here](#).



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About AusBiotech

AusBiotech is Australia's biotechnology organisation, working on behalf of members for more than 30 years to provide representation and services to promote the global growth of Australian biotechnology. AusBiotech is a well-connected network of over 3,000 members in the life sciences, including therapeutics, medical technology (devices and diagnostics), food technology and agricultural, environmental and industrial sectors.

About Medicines Australia

Medicines Australia represents the discovery-driven pharmaceutical industry in Australia. Our member companies invent, manufacture and supply innovative medicines and vaccines to the Australian community, which keeps Australians out of hospitals, prevents disease and play a pivotal role in ensuring a productive and healthy community. Medicines Australia's mission is to drive the creation and development of a predictable environment for the continued, sustainable growth of the innovative and researchbased prescription medicines industry.

About MTA

The Medical Technology Association of Australia represents manufacturers, exporters and suppliers of medical technology products used in the diagnostics, prevention, treatment and management of disease and disability.

About RDTF

The RDTF was set up to be the pre-eminent industry voice to advocate for policy and regulatory options that will ensure Australia remains a leading destination for global investment in clinical trials. It works to advance recognition by providing expertise and guidance on issues relating to the clinical trials environment in Australia. The RDTF is sponsored by AusBiotech, Medicines Australia, and the Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA).