

The Network of Networks (N²) Membership

The Kingston General Hospital (KGH) has adopted the Network of Network's (N²) Standard Operating Procedures for Clinical Research (or SOPs for short). N² is a national initiative that brings together multiple existing disease networks and other stakeholders willing to join forces to enhance Canada's research capability and capacity. The N² was formed because clinical researchers face common challenges in their quest to conduct world class research. N² provides the opportunity to speak to clinical research issues with one voice and offers a forum to develop and share tools, resources and best practices. N² is a membership organization. Currently N² membership includes many networks that represent more than 200 clinical research sites across multiple therapeutic areas, several academic teaching institutions, the Canadian Institute for Health Research (the federal funding body for health research in Canada), and the Research Ethics Web-Based Education Group (an organization with a focus on education in the area of research ethics).

The N² has developed a national standardized set of SOPs that are applicable to any therapeutic area of research and are compliant with Health Canada and the United States Food and Drug regulations, the International Conference on Harmonization-Good Clinical Practice Guidelines (ICH-GCP), and the Canadian Tri-Council Policy Statement on Research Involving Human Subjects (TCPS). SOPs are official, detailed, written instructions for the management of clinical trials at sites and are required to ensure that clinical research is conducted in a manner that protects the rights and safety of human subjects participating in research, guards the integrity of the research data being collected, and adheres to all federal and provincial policies, laws, and regulations. For further details, please consult KGH Administrative Policy [11-152: Standard Operating Procedures for Clinical Research](#).

As part of the KGH Office of Health Sciences Research membership with N², the research office has access to networking opportunities with colleagues, sharing of best practices tools such as the SOPs and contract negotiations, on-line formal training such as GCP and SOP programs, and web links. Hospital researchers and their research staff can also gain access to the N² website, at no cost. The website houses all the SOPs and in early 2010 the website will also provide researchers and research staff the opportunity to obtain formal SOP and GCP training (with certificates), at no cost.

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In order to obtain access to the N² website to obtain copies of the SOPs or to obtain a copy of KGH Administrative Policy 11-152, please contact Veronica Harris-McAllister within the KGH Office of Health Sciences Research at harrismv@kgh.kari.net or (613) 549-6666, ext 3653.