

Call for mutual recognition of ethical approval in the Nordic countries

The Nordic Countries as an arena for clinical research

It is well established that the potential for further collaboration regarding clinical trials in the Nordic countries has a huge potential. Each of the Nordic countries has on a global scale a small population, but the total number of inhabitants in the Nordic countries are 26 million people. This together with the facts that we have a strong public health care systems, good quality registers, and high quality researchers used to collaborate makes the Nordic countries an excellent arena for improving health care through clinical research.

From a patient perspective, access to clinical trials is important for several reasons. It gives better care for cancer patients today, and better treatment for tomorrow's patient capitalising on the most recent development in all aspects of care

Mutual recognition of ethical approval

Our experience based on contact and feedback from clinicians and researchers shows us that today's system where there is a need to obtain ethical approval in each country is time- and resource demanding. Therefore a barrier for clinical trials. The Nordic countries share very similar moral values, cultures and health care and legal systems. Protecting personal data from 2018 follows in all Nordic countries the EU General Data Protection Regulation, with the intention of a one-stop shop for approval of data collection and use. This gives us a unique opportunity to a similar solution for ethical approval in the Nordic countries. We acknowledge the complexity in the ethical legislation on biomedical research and its ethical pre-evaluation and the need for proper and clear information in a native language for data subjects.

On this background, the Secretary Generals in the cancer leagues calls for mutual recognition of ethical approval in the Nordic countries. If a clinical study receives a clinical approval in one of the Nordic countries this should be accepted in the other Nordic countries, given the information to the data subject is clear and unambiguous in the native language

This call is in line with the conclusion in the report written by Bo Könberg on "The Future of Nordic Co-Operation on Health".

On behalf of the General Secretaries in the following organizations

<name of cancer society is supporting the call>



Cancer Society of Finland



Kræftens Bekæmpelse

krabbameinsfélagið



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KREFTFORENINGEN