Mathur ICMR Revised research guidelines:

REVIEW COMMENTS

1. The paper is highly important in its ability to introduce the revised Ethical Guidelines to the biomedical and social science and public health researcher community in India.

2. The guidelines comprehensively outlined in this manuscript will certainly influence the practice of research in India and may even influence policy. The paper is a perfect fit for the Journal.

3. The comprehensive description of the revised guidelines amply informs about the new introductions / deletionsthat have been introduced. It whets the reader’s appetite to access the original document. There is no likelihood of plagiarism.

4. It would benefit the manuscript if:

a) List of the 14 identified topics in the revised guidelines could be mentioned in a tabular form to satisfy readers more, without them having to refer the original document.

b) In this era of big data, it would be helpful to include guidelines for international collaborations and multicentric studies in biomedical, public health and social science fields, if the revised guide-lines have it as content.

Similarly, whilst the manuscript mentions emergency research, it would be helpful to

know the revised guidelines include the picket fence issue of maintaining confidentiality

in say the case of infectious disease transmission / surveillance studies, highlighting the

balance between public safety and confidentiality.

5. The manuscript could be broken up into discrete sub-sections. To increase comprehension, examples could be inserted to highlight / explain the insertions in the revised guidelines.

6. A great way to disseminate the framework of the revised GLs.

Could the authors consider at this stage ending the article with a retrospection of “grey areas” / gaps in the document which they may have identified / perceived during its development and even after.

The paper may be accepted with the above modifications.

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