MAINTAINING AN AGILE & COLLABORATIVE APPROACH DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

To our valued clients, colleagues and partners

Our ability to help deliver cutting-edge treatments to patients who need them most is one of the most rewarding parts of working in clinical research. In these challenging times, it is incredibly important we do all we can to protect and prioritise the health and wellbeing of our trial subjects, colleagues, partners and clients. Like many other CROs, this is a situation unlike any we have faced before. It is with great thought and care we have strategized a plan to ensure we can do our absolute best to get through this together.

At the beginning of March, I shared how Simbec-Orion had formed an Alert Group to monitor and measure the daily impact of COVID-19 pandemic, including local government legislation and health authority advice. We anticipated that we could see more restrictions put in place as the situation progressed, and we have prepared for this. Meeting daily, we monitor developments, to make the right decision at the right time to protect patients, staff and clients for the potential consequences that this evolving situation does, and might create.

PATIENT AND EMPLOYEE SAFETY: THE ABSOLUTE PRIORITY

We have reviewed all our ongoing studies on a case-by-case basis to formulate customised risk mitigation and impact assessment plans with clients – keeping patient's and employee safety as our priority. With sponsors' agreement, remote monitoring has been implemented, and we are assessing remote source data verification (SDV) capabilities to offer a robust, CRF2, GCP compliant solution within the coming weeks for sponsors who require this option.

Our office-based staff are already working remotely, and we have implemented additional precautionary measures (such as temperature checking on arrival) for our clinical staff and volunteers visiting our Clinical Pharmacology Unit for the purposes of any research that cannot be paused during the outbreak.

COVID-19 RESEARCH

In these exceptional circumstance's regulators are accelerating approvals to support COVID-19 clinical research. Utilising our strong site relationships throughout Europe and our own Clinical Pharmacology Unit, combined with our experience in running complex hospital-based studies in critical care, immunology, and acute respiratory distress syndrome, we encourage the industry to engage with us to support clinical research efforts. Our agile and collaborative approach together with our hands-on Senior Leadership Team allows us to make the quick decisions that this rapidly evolving situation requires and we have a fast track process for any requests in this area.

Please stay safe and follow government advice during these times.

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