

Science editor: 1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes an ethics of the ethical implications for Covid-19 research. The topic is within the scope of the WJP. (1) Classification: Grade C; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: This is an interesting editorial regarding Ethical implications for Covid-19 research. The topic is very promising and highlights some very important aspects of the research. The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered; and (3) Format: There is no tables and figures. A total of 10 references are cited, including 6 references published in the last 3 years. There are 2 self-citations. 2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade B. The authors are native English speakers. 3 Academic norms and rules: No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search. 4 Supplementary comments: This is an invited manuscript. No financial support was obtained for the study. The topic has not previously been published in the WJP. 5 Issues raised: (1) The title is too long, and it should be no more than 18 words; (2) The "Author Contributions" section is missing. Please provide the author contributions; (3) PMID and DOI numbers are missing in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Please revise throughout. 6 Recommendation: Conditional acceptance.

2) The "Author Contributions" section is missing

This has been moved to the first page of the manuscript.

(3) PMID and DOI numbers are missing in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references

These have now been included and formatted as per guidance.

Company editor in chief: the author(s) must add a table/figure to the manuscript.

We have added a box of key highlights to the manuscript

1 Details of your submission

Journal title: World Journal of Psychiatry

Manuscript NO: 61653

Title: Rapid Commentary: Are we considering the immediate and long-term ethical implications for Clinical Trialists and Patients when conducting Covid-19 research? Ethical implications for Covid-19 research?

Title has been amended and reduced as suggested by the reviewers:

Rapid Commentary; Ethical Implications for Clinical Trialists and Patients associated with Covid-19 research

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Reviewer ID: 04623475

Review time: 3 Days

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2 Peer-review report

Reviewer #1: This is an interesting editorial regarding Ethical implications for Covid-19 research. The topic is very promising and highlights some very important aspects of the research I have the following suggestions: The title should be shortened, avoiding redundancies.

Thank you for your suggestion, we have amended the topic accordingly.

Rapid Commentary; Ethical Implications for Clinical Trialists and Patients associated with Covid-19 research

What do the authors think about surgical studies?

The scope of this commentary is limited to the ethical implications to Clinical Trialists and Patients and therefore was not focused on surgical studies.

No consideration was made regarding specific informed consent and inherent ethical problems.

As above, this commentary is about the ethical implications directly associated with Clinical Trialists and patients taking part in trials than generic research ethics. Although Informed consent is associated with research consent, this was not the immediate focus of this commentary.

What are the inherent and specific considerations that link the article to this journal where it was submitted?? Quality of life, repercussions etc.

Thank you for your question, the repercussions of inherent ethical issues impact psychosocial functions of any individual. Moreover, these issues are currently not being addressed clinically due to a variety of reasons. Furthermore, this is yet to be explored by researchers as the primary focus has been to address the covid-19 pandemic. However, this means the contextual psychological impact on those conducting covid-19 research is a secondary focus as the primary focus has been finding a vaccine for the pandemic. The dedication and sacrifices trialists are primarily making impact their own wellbeing as well as their families; thereby creating the *by-stander effect*. As a result of this, an

unethical environment is being created surrounding those specifically conducting covid-19 research, at the behest of their own wellbeing. This is a challenging dilemma which is the reason for this rapid commentary focusing on the broader implications than focusing on a narrower approach.

Thank you,

Dr Delanerolle & Dr Phiri