

**AT THE EDGE OF INSTITUTIONAL BOUNDARIES. CONSIDERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH
DEVELOPING A SELF-MANAGED, CLOUD BASED, COLLABORATIVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT
SOFTWARE FOR PARTICIPANT BASED RESEARCHERS**

This presentation will outline some of the considerations needed to be addressed in developing a self-managed, cross institutional research participant based project and data management tool, called Quadrant.

Quadrant, is a NeCTAR funded project and has been developed to meet the challenges faced by health related, participant- based researchers in managing collaborative, multi-site and multi- institutional research projects. These challenges have risen in conjunction with the increasing emphasis on conducting collaborative research that is multi-institutional, multi-discipline and that spans disparate geographical areas. The benefits of collaborative research include: greater access to specialised knowledge and expertise; greater cross discipline awareness and discoveries; and increased translation outcomes. In addition, it is also acknowledged that active engagement of all stakeholders in the research process including health professionals and patients can maximise research outputs and translation if appropriately managed.

Specific challenges faced by participant based researchers include managing collection and access to sensitive information, diverse and physically disparate data collection sites, multiple research team members and external stakeholders.

Quadrant meets such challenges by providing research teams with a research workflow process and central data collection site for participant based research. Participant based research describes a method of research where data is collected and analysed through the administration of defined tasks, such as interviews, surveys, experiment and observations that is repeated across a group of individual participants or subjects. A Quadrant Project Owner can use Quadrant to assign responsibility for workflow stages to research team members and grant access to sensitive information as determined by the team member's responsibility. This allows the Project Owner to only expose sensitive information to team members' (who may be physically disparate and outside a host institution) when necessary and to complete their assigned responsibility. This assists in meeting institutional, funding and ethical requirements in regards to storage and access to sensitive information.

This presentation will outline the Quadrant software and some of the considerations needed to be addressed in developing a self-managed, cross institutional participant based project and data management tool, including:

- ♣ Development of appropriate Service Level Agreements to ensure the software assists in meeting Human Research Ethics Committee and the Australian Code of Conduct for the Responsible Conduct of Research requirements in regards to data access, location, storage, security, encryption and deletion
- ♣ Development of appropriate policy and access control for researchers where the application is operated and primary data is stored outside the researchers host institution
- ♣ Appropriate User Interface and Experience to mitigate issues associated with the self-management of project workspaces and to ensure users do not accidentally grant access to information through misunderstanding of the system

The presentation will provide examples of these considerations and how Quadrant meets these considerations through, policy, agreements and functionality.

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