PROJECT SUMMARY

BC COMMON CLINICAL INFORMED CONSENT FORM

NOVEMBER 2025

NEEDS STATEMENT

The current BC Common Clinical Informed Consent Form (BC CCICF) is outdated and not reflective of the changes that have taken place within the health research landscape in British Columbia (BC). Research ethics communities have identified a need for this form to be rewritten to reflect current legislation, regulatory requirements, guidance, community needs and best practices.

Furthermore, there is concern surrounding the readability and representation from Indigenous communities and patient partners. Collaboration is needed to ensure that the next update will be accessible and inclusive in a way that facilitates comprehension for all parties involved in health research in BC. With the appropriate feedback, the BC CCICF will ideally be recognized and adopted by all research ethics boards in BC encouraging communication and consistency at the start of the research process.

BACKGROUND

The BC CCICF template was originally developed in 2013 through UBC and the health authorities to harmonize and centralize the clinical consent form for research conducted in BC. The form was expanded on for considerations such as incapacity and substitute decision makers in 2017/2018 by a working group of clinical research ethics board administrators, lawyers and ethicists. A second revision was completed in 2019 with the latest update dated July 2020.

At the request of the harmonized ethics community, the research ethics team at Clinical Trials British Columbia, part of Michael Smith Health Research BC, became stewards of the BC CCICF in September 2022. The team works collaboratively with BC's 27 institutional research ethics boards as part of its commitment to advance ethics harmonization across the province for all research.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the project is to provide an updated BC CCICF that is:

- In compliance with regulatory requirements and follows current legislation
- Easily adapted for use for participating institutions
- Concise and accessible for all populations
- Representative of patient partners, minority groups and Indigenous rights holders in BC
- Accepted by Clinical Research Ethics Boards and Offices participating in the harmonized review models in BC

PROJECT STATUS

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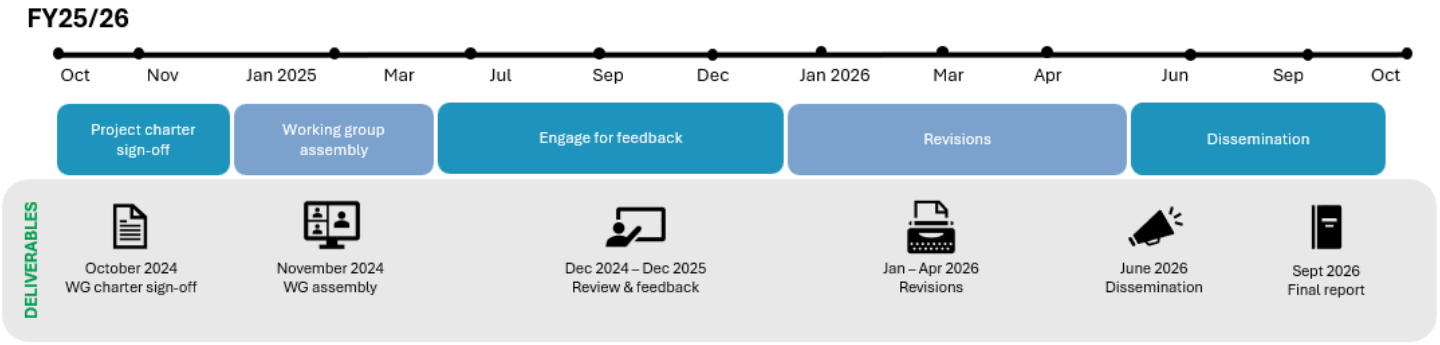
The BC CCICF project is currently on track and making steady progress toward completing our goal of revising the consent template and guidance document. Continual engagement with stakeholders, partners, or community members has supported progress and informed next steps. Initial review of the current template is approximately 65% complete, and looking ahead, the working group will focus on completing the review and drafting an updated, condensed version of the template and guidance to better support clinical research in BC.



WORKING GROUP

Our working group was formed in November 2024 and consists of patient partners, Indigenous researchers, clinical research ethics administrators and experts, legal advisors and subject matter experts.

Executive sponsor:	**Alison Orth**, Director, Clinical Trials British Columbia
Chairs:	**Hanna Jones-Eriksson**, Research Ethics Manager, Clinical Trials British Columbia
	Sara O'Shaughnessy, Research Ethics and Compliance Manager, Fraser Health
Project manager:	**Jessica Chu**, Research Ethics Facilitator, Clinical Trials British Columbia
Advisors:	**Asma-na-hi Antoine**, Indigenous Advisor, Indigenous Research Project Officer, UBC
	Jean Smart, Regulatory Affairs and Quality Officer, Clinical Trials British Columbia
Members:	**Esther Alonso-Prieto**, Lead, Ethics Service, Northern Health
	Pia Ganz, Manager, Clinical Research Ethics, UBC
	Jeanette Lim, Patient Partner
	Jim Mann, Patient Partner
	Karen Medler, Clinical Research Ethics Board, Island Health
	Siti Rahmaputri, Clinical Research Quality Assurance Specialist, Fraser Health

For regular updates, visit research ethics harmonization initiative.

If you'd like more information, connect with Jessica Chu | researchethics@healthresearchbc.ca