Institutional Research Data Management Strategy
North York General Hospital
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Background

At North York General Hospital (NYGH) we are committed to best practices in research and transforming the delivery of patient care. In March 2021, the Tri-Agencies comprised of Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) released a Research Data Management (RDM) Policy. In agreement with this policy, NYGH continues its commitment to support RDM practices in accordance with the FAIR Principles that make research data **f**indable, **a**ccessible, **i**nteroperable, and **r**eusable.

Importance of Research Data Management

Research Data Management refers to handling research data effectively and appropriately throughout the life cycle of a research study and is essential for conducting responsible, comprehendible, and reproducible research. NYGH recognizes that data is integral for quality research output and commits to support RDM practices that are consistent with ethical, legal, and commercial obligations, as well as tri-agency requirements and institutional standards.

Research Data Management Principles

The following principles are adapted from the Toronto Academic Health Sciences Network (TAHSN) RDM Advisory Committee of which NYGH is a member:
• Steward Data with a Community Hospital Focus
• Promote Research Integrity and Excellence
• Recognize the Value of Data and Data Sharing
• Encourage the Implementation of Data Management Plans
• Facilitate Long-Term Access Through Data Deposit
• Reflect Institutional and Disciplinary Practices and Standards
• Honour Indigenous Community-Driven Principles
• Strengthen Partnership and Collaboration
• Integrate Excellence in All Disciplinary Approaches
• Treat All Human Subjects Data with Appropriate Respect and Safeguard Privacy
• Learn Through Ongoing Communication and Engagement Opportunities
• Provide Infrastructure that Supports Diverse and Complex Programs of Research
• Ensure Support Services are Available
• Commit to Advocacy and Support for Researchers' Needs

Relevant Strategies and Policies

Institutional Strategies

Our strategy will evolve in coordination with NYGH Researchers as we continue to meet high standards of practice in research and RDM. We are committed to providing educational resources and supports in

accordance with the policies and expectations of the Tri-Council and other granting agencies that fund our research.

Internal Policies & Guidelines

Policies are available internally through NYGH Connex:

- NYGH Strategy
- NYGH Research and Innovation Guidelines and Forms
- Clinical Trials at NYGH
- NYGH Health Information Management
- Research Ethics Board at NYGH
- NYGH Digital Health Strategy
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Framework 2022-2025
- Information Services

External Policies & Guidelines

Research data may be subject to policies from external organizations including but not limited to:

- Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy
- Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy FAQs
- Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research
- Tri-Agency Statement of Principles of Digital Data Management
- Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans
- Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications
- Data Management Plan Assistant
- CIHR Health Research and Health-Related Data Framework and Action Plan
- SSHRC Research Data Archiving Policy
- NIH Grants Policy Statement

Data Management Plans

Some funding agencies require a Data Management Plan (DMP) to be submitted at the time of the funding application. For example, Data Management and Sharing Plans are required for research, funded, or conducted in whole or in part by NIH according to the NIH Data Management and Sharing (DMS) Policy. There are several resources available to assist with the creation of a DMP including the DMP Assistant with Digital Research Alliance of Canada and guidelines from the Tri-Agency. In the future, DMPs may be required for most Tri-Agency funding applications.

Data Deposit

"Data deposit" is outlined in the Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy - Frequently Asked Questions. Our understanding is that the Tri-Agencies will phase in the data deposit requirement and grant recipients will be required to deposit research data accordingly. Additional information regarding the Tri-Agency DMP and Data Deposit requirements will be communicated with the NYGH research community as the information becomes available. Researchers that are funded by CIHR grants follow the data deposit requirements outlined by the Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications. NYGH researchers can make use of the data deposit resources made available by the University of Toronto (U of T) such as U of T Dataverse in Borealis and U of T libraries. There is also the Federated Research Data Repository (FRDR) - a bilingual publishing platform for sharing and preserving Canadian research data.

Ethical Considerations

The [North York General Hospital Research Ethics Board (REB](#)) works with investigators to ensure that all research involving human participants or human materials conducted within and on behalf of NYGH meets the current scientific and ethical standards of safety, confidentiality, and quality to protect research participants.

Indigenous Data Considerations

Research at NYGH respects Indigenous data considerations and acknowledges those outlined on the [Tri-Agency webpage](#). Resources such as the [CARE](#) and [OCAP](#) Principles are available for guidance.

Summary

Research & Innovation will continue to work with the NYGH research community to align with Tri-Council policy. This evolving strategy will be reviewed as additional information comes available and updated on, or before, March 1 2024 as appropriate, based on the needs of researchers at NYGH and the developing policies of the Tri-Council.

Contact

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