

eConsenting

Introduction

The routine method of consenting usually involves pen + paper and a face to face meeting with the Principle Investigator (PI), Research Midwife and participant.

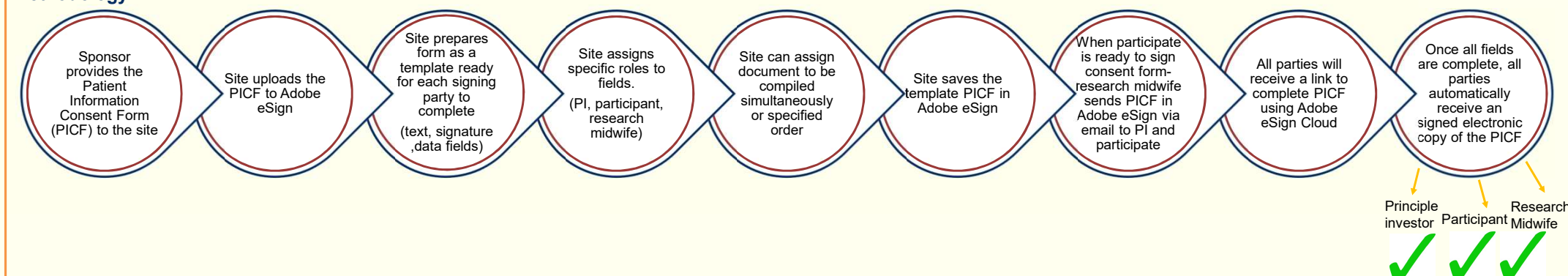
Lactoferrin Evaluation in Anaemia of Pregnancy (LEAP) decided to use e-consenting during and after the COVID- 19 pandemic to enhance the safety of women and staff by minimising face to face contact. This method minimises the risk of transmitting COVID- 19 while utilising modern technology such as Adobe Pro and Zoom telehealth conferences.

Using programs such as Adobe Pro has allowed the Research Midwife to create a fillable template with pre-specified fields. All users automatically receive a completed copy upon execution of the document. The research staff can view an audit trail, verifying the identity of all signing parties.

Aims

- COVID 19: Minimise COVID- 19 transmission risk amongst the community
- Adobe Pro: Using a electronic program to help aid using digital signing
- Zoom: Telehealth conferences with PI, research personals and participant
- Recruitment: Maintains LEAP recruitment during the COVID- 19 pandemic
- Safety: Enhances the safety of women and staff

Methodology



Results- Positives and negatives

Currently the LEAP study is still in progress until December 2021, results are pending. Below states the pros and cons for e-consenting.

	Positives	Negatives
Adobe Pro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to use • Pre-selected fields for PI, Research Midwife and participant • All users automatically receive a completed copy upon execution • Research staff can view an audit trail, verifying the identity of all signing parties • No wet ink- reduces the transmission of COVID- 19 • Participant doesn't need the Adobe Pro program to sign form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small fee for monthly subscription • Need a computer/ phone
Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise face to face contact during COVID- 19 pandemic • Free to use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can feel impersonal • Need a computer/ phone

Conclusions

This digital method of signing has also been approved by local institution Epworth Research.

This type of consenting should help minimise the risk of transmitting COVID- 19 and make the process of informed consent simple, user friendly and effective.

Special Thanks....

Adobe Pro: account.adobe.com
 Zoom: zoom.us/meeting
 LEAP: Lactoferrin Evaluation in Anaemia of Pregnancy study