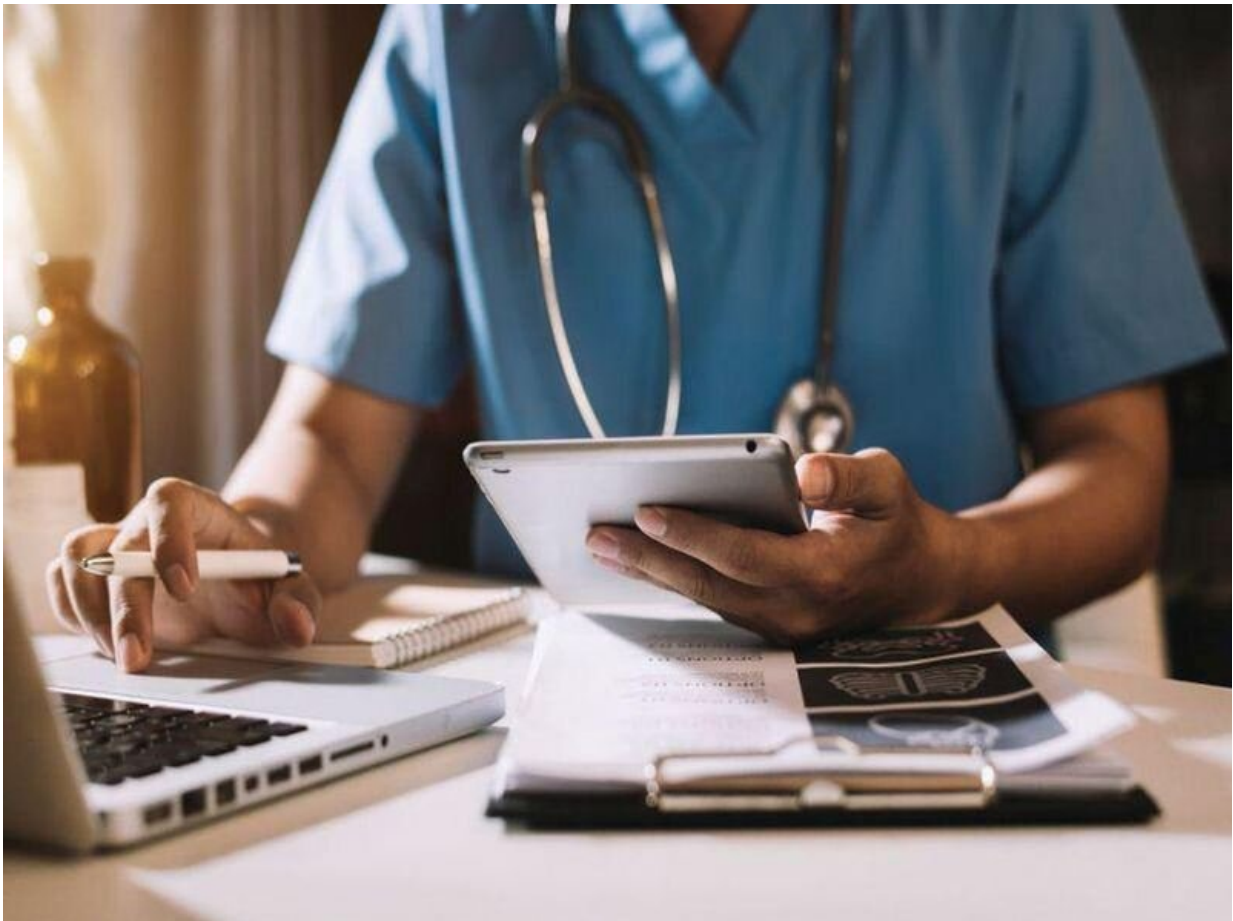


Should changes made to clinical trials during pandemic be kept?

July 22 2021



(HealthDay)—Many of the alterations made to clinical trial procedures

during the COVID-19 pandemic should be implemented in the post-COVID-19 roadmap, according to an article published online July 21 in *Cancer Discovery*.

Keith T. Flaherty, M.D., from Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center in Boston, and colleagues describe changes to cancer clinical trials during the COVID-19 pandemic, which were implemented to preserve potential patient benefit while minimizing risk associated with investigational therapies and COVID-19, and address the incorporation of these changes as part of future trials.

The authors note that the requirement for in-person consent was changed to allow for obtaining signed informed consent remotely; making electronic remote consenting permanent is recommended as part of the post-COVID-19 roadmap. The requirement to use clinical trial-specific laboratories and imaging was altered to allow use of alternate laboratories and imaging centers; henceforth, any laboratories or imaging centers that meet specifications should be allowed. Recording of safety and clinical assessments based on in-person visits was changed to allow for alternative methods of assessment; telehealth and other approaches are recommended for routine clinical trial methods. Administration of investigational products exclusively at clinical trial sites was changed to allow alternative delivery/administration methods; post-COVID-19, increased use of community-based network sites is recommended.

"Guided by lessons learned, many of the remote assessments and trial efficiencies deployed during the [pandemic](#) can be preserved and improved upon," the authors write. "We strongly encourage use of these streamlined procedures where appropriate in future prospectively designed [cancer](#) clinical [trials](#)."

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry; one author is employed by AstraZeneca.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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Citation: Should changes made to clinical trials during pandemic be kept? (2021, July 22)
retrieved 18 December 2023 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-07-clinical-trials-pandemic.html>

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