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Dr. Mark Hugh

Outcomes of patients undergoing chiropractic treatment and can these be predicted?

Thank you for your application for ethics approval for the above study. The reviewers have raised some issues, which I ask you to consider:

1. Please specify the patient files that will be included in this study (i.e. inclusion/exclusion criteria).
2. Please detail the process of anonymising the data during the transfer process (to the electronic database).
3. Please confirm that the 'patient number' used in the electronic database is not the same as the patients' clinical record numbers. Please also confirm where the code identifying how these numbers relate to individual files will be securely stored.
4. Are all the patients under your direct care? If not, please respond to the ethical issue of patients agreeing to 'share' their data beyond that of their treating practitioner.
5. Please confirm that the computer used to store the data is password protected.

Please address your responses to me.

Yours sincerely

Professor J E Bolton, PhD, MA Ed, FHEA, FCC(Hon), FBCA, FEAC
Chair, AECC Research Ethics Sub-Committee