

Medical and health research in low- and middle-income countries

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A guide to help researchers safeguard ethical principles in medical and health research conducted in low-and-middle income countries has recently been published by the Norwegian National Committee for Medical and Health Research Ethics (NEM).



➔ Background

Norway has experienced growth in the field of international health, as well as an increased international research activity in low- and middle-income countries.

NEM's guide is a tool to help researchers take a broad research ethics approach when planning and conducting their research.

➔ Ethical considerations

- Cultural differences
- Risk of exploitation
- Vulnerable groups
- Local partnership

➔ Ethical principles for integration in research projects

- Fairness through local relevance and benefit
- Respect for the individual and their community
- No harm done to the research participant or their community

➔ Ethical pre-approval

When conducting research in a low- or middle-income country, the project should obtain a local research ethics assessment. The guide states when the project also needs a pre-approval from a Norwegian regional ethic committee. It also includes an FAQ with specific examples.

